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comprises, or alternatively consists of a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of at least one VH domain referred to in Table 1 and the amino acid sequence of at least one VL domain referred to in Table 1 or fragments or variants thereof, and a heterologous polypeptide sequence. Preferably, the VH and VL domains of the fusion protein correspond to the same scFv referred to in Table 1. In yet another embodiment, a fusion protein of the invention comprises, or alternatively consists of a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one, two, three or more of the VH CDRs referred to in Table 1 and the amino acid sequence of any one, two, three or more of the VL CDRs referred to in Table 1, or fragments or variants thereof, and a heterologous polypeptide sequence. Preferably, two, three, four, five, six, or more of the VHCDR(s) or VLCDR(s) correspond to the same scFv referred to in Table 1. Nucleic acid molecules encoding these fusion proteins are also encompassed by the invention.

[0255] The present invention also provides: antibodies (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form of BLYS; antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the membrane-bound form of BLYS; and antibodies that immunospecifically bind to both the soluble form and membrane-bound form of BLYS.

[0256] In one embodiment of the present invention, antibodies (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form of BLYS, comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH domains contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 – 1880 as disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL domains contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or fragment(s) or variant(s) (including derivative) thereof. Preferably, the VH and VL domains of the antibody correspond to the same scFv as disclosed in Table 1. In another embodiment, antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form of BLYS are provided that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one, two, three, or more of the VH CDRs contained SEQ ID NOS: 1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one, two, three, or more of the VL CDRs contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or fragment(s) or variant(s) thereof. Preferably, two, three, four, five, six or more of the VH and VL CDRs

of the antibody correspond to the same scFv as disclosed in Table 1. In a preferred embodiment, antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form of BLYS are provided that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or fragment(s) or variant(s) thereof. Preferably, the VHCDR3 and VLCDR3 of the antibody correspond to the same scFv, as disclosed in Table 1. Nucleic acid molecules encoding these antibodies are also encompassed by the invention.

[0257] In another embodiment of the present invention, antibodies (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that immunospecifically bind to the membrane-bound form of BLYS are provided that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH domains contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL domains contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or a fragment or variant thereof. Preferably, the VH and VL domains of the antibody correspond to the same scFv as disclosed in Table 1. In another embodiment, antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the membrane-bound form of BLYS are provided that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one, two, three, or more of the VH CDRs contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one, two, three, or more of the VL CDRs contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or fragment(s) or variant(s) thereof. Preferably, two, three, four, five, six or more of the VH and VL CDRs of the antibody correspond to the same scFv as disclosed in Table 1. In a preferred embodiment, antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the membrane-bound form of BLYS are provided that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or fragment(s) or variant(s) thereof. Preferably, the VHCDR3 and VLCDR3 of the antibody correspond to the same scFv, as disclosed in Table 1. Nucleic acid molecules encoding these antibodies are also

encompassed by the invention.

[0258] In another embodiment of the present invention, antibodies (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form and membrane-bound form of BLyS, are provided that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH domains contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL domains contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or a fragment or variant thereof. Preferably, the VH and VL domains of the antibody correspond to the same scFv as disclosed in Table 1. In another embodiment, antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form and membrane-bound form of BLyS are provided that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one, two, three, or more of the VH CDRs contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one, two, three, or more of the VL CDRs contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or fragment(s) or variant(s) thereof. Preferably, two, three, four, five, six or more of the VH and VL CDRs of the antibody correspond to the same scFv as disclosed in Table 1. In a preferred embodiment, antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form and membrane-bound form of BLyS are provided that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1 - 1562, disclosed in Table 1 and/or the amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS: 1 - 1562, disclosed in Table 1, or fragment(s) or variant(s) thereof. Preferably, the VHCDR3 and VLCDR3 of the antibody correspond to the same scFv, as disclosed in Table 1.

[0259] The present invention also provides for mixtures of antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that immunospecifically bind to BLyS, wherein the mixture has at least one, two, three, four, five or more different antibodies of the invention. In particular, the invention provides for mixtures of different antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form of BLyS, the membrane-bound form of BLyS, and/or both the membrane-bound form and soluble form of BLyS. In specific embodiments, the invention provides mixtures of at least 2, preferably at least 4, at least 6, at least 8, at least 10, at

least 12, at least 15, at least 20, or at least 25 different antibodies that immunospecifically bind to BLyS, wherein at least 1, at least 2, at least 4, at least 6, or at least 10, antibodies of the mixture is an antibody of the invention. In a specific embodiment, each antibody of the mixture is an antibody of the invention.

[0260] The present invention also provides for panels of antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that immunospecifically bind to BLyS, wherein the panel has at least one, two, three, four, five or more different antibodies of the invention. In particular, the invention provides for panels of different antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form of BLyS, the membrane-bound form of BLyS, and/or both the membrane-bound form and soluble form of BLyS. In specific embodiments, the invention provides for panels of antibodies that have different affinities for BLyS, different specificities for BLyS, or different dissociation rates. The invention provides panels of at least 10, preferably at least 25, at least 50, at least 75, at least 100, at least 125, at least 150, at least 175, at least 200, at least 250, at least 300, at least 350, at least 400, at least 450, at least 500, at least 550, at least 600, at least 650, at least 700, at least 750, at least 800, at least 850, at least 900, at least 950, or at least 1000, antibodies. Panels of antibodies can be used, for example, in 96 well plates for assays such as ELISAs.

[0261] The present invention further provides for compositions comprising, one or more antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the invention). In one embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH domains contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR1s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR2s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant

thereof. In a preferred embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880, as disclosed in Table 1 or a variant thereof.

[0262] The present invention further provides for compositions comprising, one or more antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the invention). In one embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH domains contained in SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR1s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR2s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1 or a variant thereof.

[0263] The present invention further provides for compositions comprising, one or more antibodies (including scFvs, or molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the invention). In one embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH domains contained in SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR1s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof.

In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR2s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1 or a variant thereof.

[0264] Other embodiments of the present invention providing for compositions comprising, one or more antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the invention) are listed below. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL domains contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR1s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR2s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof.

[0265] Other embodiments of the present invention providing for compositions comprising, one or more antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the invention) are listed below. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a

polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL domains contained in SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR1s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR2s SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof.

[0266] Other embodiments of the present invention providing for compositions comprising, one or more antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the invention) are listed below. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL domains contained in SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR1s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL CDR2s SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof. In a preferred embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more

of the VL CDR3s contained in SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562 as disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof.

[0267] In a preferred embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises, one, two, three, four, five, or more antibodies that comprise, or alternatively consist of, a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VH domains disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof, and an amino acid sequence of any one or more of the VL domains disclosed in Table 1, or a variant thereof wherein the VH and VL domains are from scFvs with the same specificity (i.e., from scFvs that bind soluble BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880), from scFvs that bind membrane-bound BLyS (SEQ ID 1881 - 2128), or from scFvs that bind both soluble and membrane-bound BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562). In a preferred embodiment the invention provides antibodies wherein the VH CDRX (where X=1,2, or 3) and VL CDRY (where Y= 1,2, or 3) are from scFvs with the same specificity (i.e., from scFvs that bind soluble BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:1563 - 1880), from scFvs that bind membrane-bound BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:1881 - 2128), or from scFvs that bind both soluble and membrane-bound BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:1 - 1562). In yet another embodiment, a composition of the present invention comprises one or more fusion proteins.

[0268] As discussed in more detail below, a composition of the invention may be used either alone or in combination with other compositions. The antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the present invention) may further be recombinantly fused to a heterologous polypeptide at the N- or C-terminus or chemically conjugated (including covalently and non-covalently conjugations) to polypeptides or other compositions. For example, antibodies of the present invention may be recombinantly fused or conjugated to molecules useful as labels in detection assays and effector molecules such as heterologous polypeptides, drugs, radionuclides, or toxins. See, e.g., PCT publications WO 92/08495; WO 91/14438; WO 89/12624; U.S. Patent No. 5,314,995; and EP 396,387.

[0269] Antibodies of the present invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the present invention) may be used, for example, but not limited to, to purify and detect BLyS, and to target the polypeptides of the present invention to cells expressing membrane-bound BLyS or BLyS receptor, including both *in vitro* and *in vivo* diagnostic and therapeutic methods.

For example, the antibodies have use in immunoassays for qualitatively and quantitatively measuring levels of BLyS in biological samples. See, *e.g.*, Harlow *et al.*, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2nd ed. 1988) (incorporated by reference herein in its entirety).

Methods Producing Antibodies

[0270] The antibodies of the invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of antibody fragments or variants of the invention) can be produced by any method known in the art for the synthesis of antibodies, in particular, by chemical synthesis or preferably, by recombinant expression techniques.

[0271] The single chain Fvs disclosed in Table 1 were generated using phage display methods known in the art. Furthermore, other scFvs that immunospecifically bind BLyS may be generated using phage display methods known in the art. In phage display methods, functional antibody domains are displayed on the surface of phage particles which carry the polynucleotide sequences encoding them. In particular, DNA sequences encoding VH and VL domains are amplified from animal cDNA libraries (*e.g.*, human or murine cDNA libraries of lymphoid tissues) or synthetic cDNA libraries. The DNA encoding the VH and VL domains are joined together by an scFv linker by PCR and cloned into a phagemid vector (*e.g.*, p CANTAB 6 or pComb 3 HSS). The vector is electroporated in *E. coli* and the *E. coli* is infected with helper phage. Phage used in these methods are typically filamentous phage including fd and M13 and the VH and VL domains are usually recombinantly fused to either the phage gene III or gene VIII. Phage expressing an antigen binding domain that binds to an antigen of interest (*i.e.*, BLyS or a fragment thereof) can be selected or identified with antigen, *e.g.*, using labeled antigen or antigen bound or captured to a solid surface or bead. Examples of phage display methods that can be used to make the antibodies of the present invention include, but are not limited to, those disclosed in Brinkman *et al.*, *J. Immunol. Methods* 182:41-50 (1995); Ames *et al.*, *J. Immunol. Methods* 184:177-186 (1995); Kettleborough *et al.*, *Eur. J. Immunol.* 24:952-958 (1994); Persic *et al.*, *Gene* 187 9-18 (1997); Burton *et al.*, *Advances in Immunology* 57:191-280(1994); PCT application No. PCT/GB91/O1 134; PCT publications WO 90/02809; WO 91/10737; WO 92/01047; WO 92/18619; WO 93/1 1236; WO 95/15982; WO 95/20401; WO97/13844; and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,698,426; 5,223,409;

5,403,484; 5,580,717; 5,427,908; 5,750,753; 5,821,047; 5,571,698; 5,427,908; 5,516,637; 5,780,225; 5,658,727; 5,733,743 and 5,969,108; each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0272] As described in the above references, after phage selection, the antibody coding regions from the phage can be isolated and used to generate whole antibodies, including human antibodies, or any other desired antigen binding fragment, and expressed in any desired host, including mammalian cells, insect cells, plant cells, yeast, and bacteria, *e.g.*, as described below. Techniques to recombinantly produce Fab, Fab' and F(ab')₂ fragments can also be employed using methods known in the art such as those disclosed in PCT publication WO 92/22324; Mullinax *et al.*, *BioTechniques* 12(6):864-869 (1992); Sawai *et al.*, *AJRI* 34:26-34 (1995); and Better *et al.*, *Science* 240:1041-1043 (1988) (said references incorporated by reference in their entireties).

[0273] To generate whole antibodies, PCR primers including VH or VL nucleotide sequences, a restriction site, and a flanking sequence to protect the restriction site can be used to amplify the VH or VL sequences in scFv clones. Utilizing cloning techniques known to those of skill in the art, the PCR amplified VH domains can be cloned into vectors expressing a VH constant region, *e.g.*, the human gamma 4 constant region, and the PCR amplified VL domains can be cloned into vectors expressing a VL constant region, *e.g.*, human kappa or lambda constant regions. Preferably, the vectors for expressing the VH or VL domains comprise a promoter suitable to direct expression of the heavy and light chains in the chosen expression system, a secretion signal, a cloning site for the immunoglobulin variable domain, immunoglobulin constant domains, and a selection marker such as neomycin. The VH and VL domains may also be cloned into one vector expressing the necessary constant regions. The heavy chain conversion vectors and light chain conversion vectors are then co-transfected into cell lines to generate stable or transient cell lines that express full-length antibodies, *e.g.*, IgG, using techniques known to those of skill in the art.

[0274] Cell lines that express antibodies that comprise the VH and VL domains of scFvs of the invention have been deposited with the American Type Culture Collection ("ATCC") on the dates listed in Table 2 and given the ATCC Deposit Numbers identified in Table 2. The ATCC is located at 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-

2209, USA. The ATCC deposit was made pursuant to the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the international recognition of the deposit of microorganisms for purposes of patent procedure.

Cell Line	Corresponding scFv	SEQ ID NO:	ATCC Deposit Number	ATCC Deposit Date
NSO-B11-15	I050B11-15	24	PTA-3238	March 27, 2001
NSO-anti-BLyS-6D08-18	I006D08	2	PTA-3239	March 27, 2001
NSO- anti-BLyS-116A01-60	I116A01	327	PTA-3240	March 27, 2001
IO26C04K	I026C04-K	1563	PTA-3241	March 27, 2001
IO50A12	I050A12	12	PTA-3242	March 27, 2001
IO50B11	I050B11	9	PTA-3243	March 27, 2001

[0275] Accordingly, in one embodiment, the invention provides antibodies that comprise the VH and VL domains of scFvs of the invention.

[0276] In a preferred embodiment, an antibody of the invention is the antibody expressed by cell line NSO-B11-15.

[0277] In a preferred embodiment, an antibody of the invention is the antibody expressed by cell line NSO-anti-BLyS-6D08-18.

[0278] In a preferred embodiment, an antibody of the invention is the antibody expressed by cell line NSO- anti-BLyS-116A01-60.

[0279] In a preferred embodiment, an antibody of the invention is the antibody expressed by cell line IO26C04K.

[0280] In a preferred embodiment, an antibody of the invention is the antibody expressed by cell line IO50A12.

[0281] In a preferred embodiment, an antibody of the invention is the antibody expressed by cell line NSO-B11.

[0282] In other preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that competitively inhibit binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide. In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1,

VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by between 1% and 10% in a competitive inhibition assay. In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by between 1% and 10% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0283] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 10% and up to 20% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0284] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 20% and up to 30% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0285] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 30% and up to 40% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0286] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 40% and up to 50% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0287] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 50% and up to 60% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0288] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 60% and up to 70% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0289] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 70% and up to 80% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0290] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 80% and up to 90% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0291] In preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that which reduce the binding of an antibody comprising a fragment (e.g., VH domain, VL domain, VHCDR1, VHCDR2, VHCDR3, VLCDR1, VLCDR2, or VLCDR3) or variant of an scFv referred to in Table 1 to a BLyS polypeptide by at least 90% and up to 100% in a competitive inhibition assay.

[0292] In other preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that competitively inhibit binding of the antibody produced by the cell line having ATCC deposit number PTA-3238 to a BLyS polypeptide.

[0293] In other preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that competitively inhibit binding of the antibody produced by the cell line having ATCC deposit number PTA-3239 to a BLyS polypeptide.

[0294] In other preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that competitively inhibit binding of the antibody produced by the cell line having ATCC deposit number PTA-3240 to a BLyS polypeptide.

[0295] In other preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that competitively inhibit binding of the antibody produced by the cell line having ATCC deposit number PTA-3241 to a BLYS polypeptide.

[0296] In other preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that competitively inhibit binding of the antibody produced by the cell line having ATCC deposit number PTA-3242 to a BLYS polypeptide.

[0297] In other preferred embodiments, the invention provides antibodies that competitively inhibit binding of the antibody produced by the cell line having ATCC deposit number PTA-3243 to a BLYS polypeptide.

[0298] For some uses, including *in vivo* use of antibodies in humans and *in vitro* detection assays, it may be preferable to use human or chimeric antibodies. Completely human antibodies are particularly desirable for therapeutic treatment of human patients. See also, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,444,887 and 4,716,111; and PCT publications WO 98/46645, WO 98/50433, WO 98/24893, WO98/16654, WO 96/34096, WO 96/33735, and WO 91/10741; each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In a specific embodiment, antibodies of the present invention comprise one or more VH and VL domains corresponding to the human scFvs of the invention and framework regions from another immunoglobulin molecule, preferably a human immunoglobulin molecule. In a specific embodiment, antibodies of the present invention comprise one or more CDRs corresponding to the human scFvs of the invention and framework regions from another immunoglobulin molecule, preferably a human immunoglobulin molecule. In other embodiments, an antibody of the present invention comprises one, two, three, four, five, six or more VL CDRs or VH CDRs corresponding to one or more of the human scFvs referred to in Table 1, or fragments or variants thereof, and framework regions (and, optionally CDRs not derived from the scFvs in Table 1) from a human immunoglobulin molecule. In a preferred embodiment, an antibody of the present invention comprises a VH CDR3, VL CDR3, or both, corresponding to the same scFv, or different scFvs referred to in Table 1, or fragments or variants thereof, and framework regions from a human immunoglobulin.

[0299] A chimeric antibody is a molecule in which different portions of the antibody are derived from different immunoglobulin molecules such as antibodies having a variable region derived from a human antibody and a non-human immunoglobulin constant region. Methods for producing chimeric antibodies are known in the art. See *e.g.*, Morrison, Science 229:1202 (1985); Oi *et al.*, BioTechniques 4:214 (1986); Gillies *et al.*, J. Immunol. Methods 125:191-202 (1989); U.S. Patent Nos. 5,807,715; 4,816,567; and 4,816,397, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Chimeric antibodies comprising one or more CDRs from human species and framework regions from a non-human immunoglobulin molecule (*e.g.*, framework regions from a canine or feline immunoglobulin molecule) can be produced using a variety of techniques known in the art including, for example, CDR-grafting (EP 239,400; PCT publication WO 91/09967; U.S. Patent Nos. 5,225,539; 5,530,101; and 5,585,089), veneering or resurfacing (EP 592,106; EP 519,596; Padlan, Molecular Immunology 28(4/5):489-498 (1991); Studnicka *et al.*, Protein Engineering 7(6):805-814 (1994); Roguska *et al.*, PNAS 91:969-973 (1994)), and chain shuffling (U.S. Patent No. 5,565,332). In a preferred embodiment, chimeric antibodies comprise a human CDR3 having an amino acid sequence of any one of the VH CDR3s or VL CDR3s referred to in Table 1, or a variant thereof, and non-human framework regions or human framework regions different from those of the frameworks in the corresponding scFv disclosed in Table 1. Often, framework residues in the framework regions will be substituted with the corresponding residue from the CDR donor antibody to alter, preferably improve, antigen binding. These framework substitutions are identified by methods well known in the art, *e.g.*, by modeling of the interactions of the CDR and framework residues to identify framework residues important for antigen binding and sequence comparison to identify unusual framework residues at particular positions. (See, *e.g.*, Queen *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,585,089; Riechmann *et al.*, Nature 332:323 (1988), which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.)

[0300] Further, the antibodies of the invention can, in turn, be utilized to generate anti-idiotypic antibodies that "mimic" BLyS polypeptides using techniques well known to those skilled in the art. (See, *e.g.*, Greenspan & Bona, FASEB J. 7(5):437-444 (1993); and Nissinoff, J. Immunol. 147(8):2429-2438 (1991)). For example, antibodies of the invention which bind to BLyS and competitively inhibit the binding of BLyS to its

receptor (as determined by assays well known in the art such as, for example, that disclosed, *infra*) can be used to generate anti-idiotypes that “mimic” a BLyS ligand/receptor-binding domain and, as a consequence, bind to and neutralize BLyS receptors (e.g., TACI, BCMA, and TR20). Such neutralizing anti-idiotypes (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants, such as Fab fragments of such anti-idiotypes) can be used in therapeutic regimens to neutralize BLyS. For example, such anti-idiotypic antibodies can be used to bind BLyS ligands/receptors, and thereby block BLyS mediated biological activity. Alternatively, anti-idiotypes that “mimic” a BLyS binding domain may bind to BLyS receptor(s) and induce BLyS receptor mediated signalling (e.g., activation of nuclear factor of activated T cells (NF-AT), nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-kappa B), and/or AP-1). Such agonistic anti-idiotypes (including agonistic Fab fragments of these anti-idiotypes) can be used in therapeutic regimens to induce or enhance BLyS receptor mediated signalling. For example, such anti-idiotypic antibodies can be used to bind BLyS ligands/receptors, and thereby stimulate BLyS mediated biological activity (e.g., B cell proliferation and/or immunoglobulin production).

[0301] Once an antibody molecule of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) has been chemically synthesized or recombinantly expressed, it may be purified by any method known in the art for purification of an immunoglobulin molecule, or more generally, a protein molecule, such as, for example, by chromatography (e.g., ion exchange, affinity, particularly by affinity for the specific antigen after Protein A, and sizing column chromatography), centrifugation, differential solubility, or by any other standard technique for the purification of proteins. Further, the antibodies of the present invention may be fused to heterologous polypeptide sequences described herein or otherwise known in the art, to facilitate purification.

Polynucleotides Encoding an Antibody

[0302] The invention provides polynucleotides comprising, or alternatively consisting of, a nucleotide sequence encoding an antibody of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof). The invention also encompasses polynucleotides that hybridize under high

stringency, or alternatively, under intermediate or lower stringency hybridization conditions, *e.g.*, as defined *supra*, to polynucleotides complementary to nucleic acids having a polynucleotide sequence that encodes an antibody of the invention or a fragment or variant thereof.

[0303] The polynucleotides may be obtained, and the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotides determined, by any method known in the art. Since the amino acid sequences of the scFv antibodies and VH domains, VL domains and CDRs thereof, are known (as described in Table 1), nucleotide sequences encoding these antibodies can be determined using methods well known in the art, *i.e.*, the nucleotide codons known to encode the particular amino acids are assembled in such a way to generate a nucleic acid that encodes the antibody, of the invention. Such a polynucleotide encoding the antibody may be assembled from chemically synthesized oligonucleotides (*e.g.*, as described in Kutmeier *et al.*, BioTechniques 17:242 (1994)), which, briefly, involves the synthesis of overlapping oligonucleotides containing portions of the sequence encoding the antibody, annealing and ligating of those oligonucleotides, and then amplification of the ligated oligonucleotides by PCR.

[0304] Alternatively, a polynucleotide encoding an antibody (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) may be generated from nucleic acid from a suitable source. If a clone containing a nucleic acid encoding a particular antibody is not available, but the sequence of the antibody molecule is known, a nucleic acid encoding the immunoglobulin may be chemically synthesized or obtained from a suitable source (*e.g.*, an antibody cDNA library, or a cDNA library generated from, or nucleic acid, preferably poly A+ RNA, isolated from, any tissue or cells expressing the antibody, such as hybridoma cells selected to express an antibody of the invention) by PCR amplification using synthetic primers hybridizable to the 3' and 5' ends of the sequence or by cloning using an oligonucleotide probe specific for the particular gene sequence to identify, *e.g.*, a cDNA clone from a cDNA library that encodes the antibody. Amplified nucleic acids generated by PCR may then be cloned into replicable cloning vectors using any method well known in the art.

[0305] Once the nucleotide sequence of the antibody (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) is determined, the nucleotide sequence of the antibody may be manipulated using methods

well known in the art for the manipulation of nucleotide sequences, *e.g.*, recombinant DNA techniques, site directed mutagenesis, PCR, etc. (see, for example, the techniques described in Sambrook *et al.*, 1990, Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2d Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY and Ausubel *et al.*, eds., 1998, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, NY, which are both incorporated by reference herein in their entireties), to generate antibodies having a different amino acid sequence, for example to create amino acid substitutions, deletions, and/or insertions.

[0306] In a specific embodiment, one or more of the VH and VL domains referred to in Table 1, or fragments or variants thereof, is inserted within framework regions using recombinant DNA techniques known in the art. In a specific embodiment, one, two, three, four, five, six, or more of the CDRs referred to in Table 1, or fragments or variants thereof, is inserted within framework regions using recombinant DNA techniques known in the art. The framework regions may be naturally occurring or consensus framework regions, and preferably human framework regions (see, *e.g.*, Chothia *et al.*, J. Mol. Biol. 278: 457-479 (1998) for a listing of human framework regions, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). Preferably, the polynucleotides generated by the combination of the framework regions and CDRs encode an antibody (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that specifically binds to BLyS. Preferably, as discussed *supra*, polynucleotides encoding variants of antibodies or antibody fragments having one or more amino acid substitutions may be made within the framework regions, and, preferably, the amino acid substitutions improve binding of the antibody to its antigen. Additionally, such methods may be used to make amino acid substitutions or deletions of one or more variable region cysteine residues participating in an intrachain disulfide bond to generate antibody molecules, or antibody fragments or variants, lacking one or more intrachain disulfide bonds. Other alterations to the polynucleotide are encompassed by the present invention and fall within the ordinary skill of the art.

Recombinant Expression of an Antibody

[0307] Recombinant expression of an antibody of the invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or

variants thereof (e.g., a heavy or light chain of an antibody of the invention or a portion thereof or a single chain antibody of the invention)), requires construction of an expression vector(s) containing a polynucleotide that encodes the antibody. Once a polynucleotide encoding an antibody molecule (e.g., a whole antibody, a heavy or light chain of an antibody, or portion thereof (preferably, but not necessarily, containing the heavy or light chain variable domain)), of the invention has been obtained, the vector(s) for the production of the antibody molecule may be produced by recombinant DNA technology using techniques well known in the art. Thus, methods for preparing a protein by expressing a polynucleotide containing an antibody encoding nucleotide sequence are described herein. Methods which are well known to those skilled in the art can be used to construct expression vectors containing antibody coding sequences and appropriate transcriptional and translational control signals. These methods include, for example, *in vitro* recombinant DNA techniques, synthetic techniques, and *in vivo* genetic recombination. The invention, thus, provides replicable vectors comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an antibody molecule of the invention (e.g., a whole antibody, a heavy or light chain of an antibody, a heavy or light chain variable domain of an antibody, or a portion thereof, or a heavy or light chain CDR, a single chain Fv, or fragments or variants thereof), operably linked to a promoter. Such vectors may include the nucleotide sequence encoding the constant region of the antibody molecule (see, e.g., PCT Publication WO 86/05807; PCT Publication WO 89/01036; and U.S. Patent No. 5,122,464, the contents of each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety) and the variable domain of the antibody may be cloned into such a vector for expression of the entire heavy chain, the entire light chain, or both the entire heavy and light chains.

[0308] The expression vector(s) is(are) transferred to a host cell by conventional techniques and the transfected cells are then cultured by conventional techniques to produce an antibody of the invention. Thus, the invention includes host cells containing polynucleotide(s) encoding an antibody of the invention (e.g., whole antibody, a heavy or light chain thereof, or portion thereof, or a single chain antibody of the invention, or a fragment or variant thereof), operably linked to a heterologous promoter. In preferred embodiments, for the expression of entire antibody molecules, vectors encoding both the heavy and light chains may be co-expressed in the host cell for expression of the entire immunoglobulin molecule, as detailed below.

[0309] A variety of host-expression vector systems may be utilized to express the antibody molecules of the invention. Such host-expression systems represent vehicles by which the coding sequences of interest may be produced and subsequently purified, but also represent cells which may, when transformed or transfected with the appropriate nucleotide coding sequences, express an antibody molecule of the invention *in situ*. These include, but are not limited to, microorganisms such as bacteria (*e.g.*, *E. coli*, *B. subtilis*) transformed with recombinant bacteriophage DNA, plasmid DNA or cosmid DNA expression vectors containing antibody coding sequences; yeast (*e.g.*, *Saccharomyces*, *Pichia*) transformed with recombinant yeast expression vectors containing antibody coding sequences; insect cell systems infected with recombinant virus expression vectors (*e.g.*, baculovirus) containing antibody coding sequences; plant cell systems infected with recombinant virus expression vectors (*e.g.*, cauliflower mosaic virus, CaMV; tobacco mosaic virus, TMV) or transformed with recombinant plasmid expression vectors (*e.g.*, Ti plasmid) containing antibody coding sequences; or mammalian cell systems (*e.g.*, COS, CHO, BHK, 293, 3T3 cells) harboring recombinant expression constructs containing promoters derived from the genome of mammalian cells (*e.g.*, metallothionein promoter) or from mammalian viruses (*e.g.*, the adenovirus late promoter; the vaccinia virus 7.5K promoter). Preferably, bacterial cells such as *Escherichia coli*, and more preferably, eukaryotic cells, especially for the expression of whole recombinant antibody molecule, are used for the expression of a recombinant antibody molecule. For example, mammalian cells such as Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO), in conjunction with a vector such as the major intermediate early gene promoter element from human cytomegalovirus is an effective expression system for antibodies (Foecking *et al.*, Gene 45:101 (1986); Cockett *et al.*, Bio/Technology 8:2 (1990)).

[0310] In bacterial systems, a number of expression vectors may be advantageously selected depending upon the use intended for the antibody molecule being expressed. For example, when a large quantity of such a protein is to be produced, for the generation of pharmaceutical compositions of an antibody molecule, vectors which direct the expression of high levels of fusion protein products that are readily purified may be desirable. Such vectors include, but are not limited to, the *E. coli* expression vector pUR278 (Ruther *et al.*, EMBO 1. 2:1791 (1983)), in which the antibody coding sequence may be ligated individually into the vector in frame with the lac Z coding region so that a

fusion protein is produced; pIN vectors (Inouye & Inouye, Nucleic Acids Res. 13:3101-3109 (1985); Van Heeke & Schuster, J. Biol. Chem. 24:5503-5509 (1989)); and the like. pGEX vectors may also be used to express foreign polypeptides as fusion proteins with glutathione S-transferase (GST). In general, such fusion proteins are soluble and can easily be purified from lysed cells by adsorption and binding to matrix glutathione agarose beads followed by elution in the presence of free glutathione. The pGEX vectors are designed to include thrombin or factor Xa protease cleavage sites so that the cloned target gene product can be released from the GST moiety.

[0311] In an insect system, Autographa californica nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV) may be used as a vector to express foreign genes. The virus grows in *Spodoptera frugiperda* cells. Antibody coding sequences may be cloned individually into non-essential regions (for example, the polyhedrin gene) of the virus and placed under control of an AcNPV promoter (for example, the polyhedrin promoter).

[0312] In mammalian host cells, a number of viral-based expression systems may be utilized. In cases where an adenovirus is used as an expression vector, the antibody coding sequence of interest may be ligated to an adenovirus transcription/translation control complex, *e.g.*, the late promoter and tripartite leader sequence. This chimeric gene may then be inserted in the adenovirus genome by *in vitro* or *in vivo* recombination. Insertion in a non-essential region of the viral genome (*e.g.*, region EI or E3) will result in a recombinant virus that is viable and capable of expressing the antibody molecule in infected hosts (*e.g.*, see Logan & Shenk, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81:355-359 (1984)). Specific initiation signals may also be required for efficient translation of inserted antibody coding sequences. These signals include the ATG initiation codon and adjacent sequences. Furthermore, the initiation codon must be in phase with the reading frame of the desired coding sequence to ensure translation of the entire insert. These exogenous translational control signals and initiation codons can be of a variety of origins, both natural and synthetic. The efficiency of expression may be enhanced by the inclusion of appropriate transcription enhancer elements, transcription terminators, etc. (see, *e.g.*, Bittner *et al.*, Methods in Enzymol. 153:51-544 (1987)).

[0313] In addition, a host cell strain may be chosen which modulates the expression of the inserted sequences, or modifies and processes the gene product in the specific fashion desired. Such modifications (*e.g.*, glycosylation) and processing (*e.g.*,

cleavage) of protein products may be important for the function of the protein. Different host cells have characteristic and specific mechanisms for the post-translational processing and modification of proteins and gene products. Appropriate cell lines or host systems can be chosen to ensure the correct modification and processing of the foreign protein expressed. To this end, eukaryotic host cells which possess the cellular machinery for proper processing of the primary transcript, glycosylation, and phosphorylation of the gene product may be used. Such mammalian host cells include, but are not limited to, CHO, VERY, BHK, HeLa, COS, NSO, MDCK, 293, 3T3, W138, and in particular, breast cancer cell lines such as, for example, BT483, Hs578T, HTB2, BT2O and T47D, and normal mammary gland cell line such as, for example, CRL703O and HsS78Bst.

[0314] For long-term, high-yield production of recombinant proteins, stable expression is preferred. For example, cell lines which stably express the antibody may be engineered. Rather than using expression vectors which contain viral origins of replication, host cells can be transformed with DNA controlled by appropriate expression control elements (*e.g.*, promoter, enhancer, sequences, transcription terminators, polyadenylation sites, etc.), and a selectable marker. Following the introduction of the foreign DNA, engineered cells may be allowed to grow for 1-2 days in an enriched media, and then are switched to a selective media. The selectable marker in the recombinant plasmid confers resistance to the selection and allows cells to stably integrate the plasmid into their chromosomes and grow to form foci which in turn can be cloned and expanded into cell lines. This method may advantageously be used to engineer cell lines which express the antibody molecule. Such engineered cell lines may be particularly useful in screening and evaluation of compositions that interact directly or indirectly with the antibody molecule.

[0315] A number of selection systems may be used, including but not limited to, the herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (Wigler *et al.*, Cell 11:223 (1977)), hypoxanthineguanine phosphoribosyltransferase (Szybalska & Szybalski, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 48:202 (1992)), and adenine phosphoribosyltransferase (Lowy *et al.*, Cell 22:8 17 (1980)) genes can be employed in tk-, hgp^rt- or ap^rt- cells, respectively. Also, antimetabolite resistance can be used as the basis of selection for the following genes: *dhfr*, which confers resistance to methotrexate (Wigler *et al.*, Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 77:357 (1980); O'Hare *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 78:1527 (1981)); *gpt*, which confers

resistance to mycophenolic acid (Mulligan & Berg, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 78:2072 (1981)); neo, which confers resistance to the aminoglycoside G-418 (Clinical Pharmacy 12:488-505; Wu and Wu, Biotherapy 3:87-95 (1991); Tolstoshev, Ann. Rev. Pharmacol. Toxicol. 32:573-596 (1993); Mulligan, Science 260:926-932 (1993); and Morgan and Anderson, Ann. Rev. Biochem. 62: 191-217 (1993); TIB TECH 11(5):155-2 15 (May, 1993)); and *hygro*, which confers resistance to hygromycin (Santerre *et al.*, Gene 30:147 (1984)). Methods commonly known in the art of recombinant DNA technology may be routinely applied to select the desired recombinant clone, and such methods are described, for example, in Ausubel *et al.* (eds.), Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, NY (1993); Kriegler, Gene Transfer and Expression, A Laboratory Manual, Stockton Press, NY (1990); and in Chapters 12 and 13, Dracopoli *et al.* (eds), Current Protocols in Human Genetics, John Wiley & Sons, NY (1994); Colberre-Garapin *et al.*, J. Mol. Biol. 150:1 (1981), which are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

[0316] The expression levels of an antibody molecule can be increased by vector amplification (for a review, see Bebbington and Hentschel, The use of vectors based on gene amplification for the expression of cloned genes in mammalian cells in DNA cloning, Vol.3. (Academic Press, New York, 1987)). When a marker in the vector system expressing antibody is amplifiable, increase in the level of inhibitor present in culture of host cell will increase the number of copies of the marker gene. Since the amplified region is associated with the coding sequence of the antibody, production of the antibody will also increase (Crouse *et al.*, Mol. Cell. Biol. 3:257 (1983)).

[0317] The host cell may be co-transfected with two expression vectors of the invention, the first vector encoding a heavy chain derived polypeptide and the second vector encoding a light chain derived polypeptide. The two vectors may contain identical selectable markers which enable equal expression of heavy and light chain polypeptides. Alternatively, a single vector may be used which encodes, and is capable of expressing, both heavy and light chain polypeptides. In such situations, the light chain is preferably placed before the heavy chain to avoid an excess of toxic free heavy chain (Proudfoot, Nature 322:52 (1986); Kohler, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 77:2 197 (1980)). The coding sequences for the heavy and light chains may comprise cDNA or genomic DNA.

[0318] Once an antibody molecule of the invention has been produced by recombinant expression, it may be purified by any method known in the art for

purification of an immunoglobulin molecule, or more generally, for purification of a protein, for example, by chromatography (*e.g.*, ion exchange, affinity, particularly by affinity for the specific antigen after Protein A, and sizing column chromatography), centrifugation, differential solubility, or by any other standard technique for the purification of proteins. Further, the antibodies of the present invention may be fused to heterologous polypeptide sequences described herein or otherwise known in the art to facilitate purification.

Antibody Characterization

[0319] Antibodies of the present invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) may be characterized in a variety of ways. In particular, antibodies and related molecules of the invention may be assayed for the ability to immunospecifically bind to BLyS or a fragment of BLyS (*e.g.*, to the soluble form or the membrane-bound form of BLyS) using techniques described herein or routinely modifying techniques known in the art. BLyS or BLyS fragments that may be immunospecifically bound by the compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, human BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:3228 and/or 3229) or BLyS expressed on human monocytes; murine BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:3230 and/or 3231) or BLyS expressed on murine monocytes; rat BLyS (either the soluble forms as given in SEQ ID NOS:3232, 3233, 3234 and/or 3235 or in a membrane associated form, *e.g.*, on the surface of rat monocytes); or monkey BLyS (*e.g.*, the monkey BLyS polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS:3236 and/or 3237, the soluble form of monkey BLyS, or BLyS expressed on monkey monocytes) or fragments thereof. Preferably compositions of the invention bind human BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:3228 and/or 3229) or fragments thereof. Assays for the ability of the antibodies of the invention to immunospecifically bind BLyS or a fragment of BLyS may be performed in solution (*e.g.*, Houghten, *Bio/Techniques* 13:412-421(1992)), on beads (*e.g.*, Lam, *Nature* 354:82-84 (1991)), on chips (*e.g.*, Fodor, *Nature* 364:555-556 (1993)), on bacteria (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,223,409), on spores (*e.g.*, Patent Nos. 5,571,698; 5,403,484; and 5,223,409), on plasmids (*e.g.*, Cull et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:1865-1869 (1992)) or on phage (*e.g.*, Scott and Smith, *Science* 249:386-390 (1990); Devlin, *Science* 249:404-406 (1990); Cwirla et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:6378-6382 (1990); and Felici, *J. Mol. Biol.* 222:301-310 (1991)) (each of

these references is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference). Antibodies that have been identified to immunospecifically bind to BLyS or a fragment of BLyS can then be assayed for their specificity and affinity for BLyS or a fragment of BLyS using or routinely modifying techniques described herein or otherwise known in the art.

[0320] The antibodies of the invention may be assayed for immunospecific binding to BLyS and cross-reactivity with other antigens by any method known in the art. In particular, the ability of an antibody to immunospecifically bind to the soluble form or membrane-bound form of BLyS and the specificity of the antibody, fragment, or variant for BLyS polypeptide from a particular species (e.g., murine, monkey or human, preferably human) may be determined using or routinely modifying techniques described herein or otherwise known in art .

[0321] Immunoassays which can be used to analyze immunospecific binding and cross-reactivity include, but are not limited to, competitive and non-competitive assay systems using techniques such as western blots, radioimmunoassays, ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay), "sandwich" immunoassays, immunoprecipitation assays, precipitin reactions, gel diffusion precipitin reactions, immunodiffusion assays, agglutination assays, complement-fixation assays, immunoradiometric assays, fluorescent immunoassays, and protein A immunoassays, to name but a few. Such assays are routine and well known in the art (see, e.g., Ausubel et al, eds, 1994, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Vol. 1, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety). Exemplary immunoassays are described briefly below (but are not intended by way of limitation).

[0322] Immunoprecipitation protocols generally comprise lysing a population of cells in a lysis buffer such as RIPA buffer (1% NP-40 or Triton X-100, 1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 0.15 M NaCl, 0.01 M sodium phosphate at pH 7.2, 1% Trasylol) supplemented with protein phosphatase and/or protease inhibitors (e.g., EDTA, PMSF, aprotinin, sodium vanadate), adding the antibody of interest to the cell lysate, incubating for a period of time (e.g., 1 to 4 hours) at 40 degrees C, adding protein A and/or protein G sepharose beads to the cell lysate, incubating for about an hour or more at 40 degrees C, washing the beads in lysis buffer and resuspending the beads in SDS/sample buffer. The ability of the antibody of interest to immunoprecipitate a particular antigen can be assessed by, e.g., western blot analysis. One of skill in the art would be knowledgeable as

to the parameters that can be modified to increase the binding of the antibody to an antigen and decrease the background (*e.g.*, pre-clearing the cell lysate with sepharose beads). For further discussion regarding immunoprecipitation protocols see, *e.g.*, Ausubel et al, eds, 1994, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Vol. 1, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York at 10.16.1.

[0323] Western blot analysis generally comprises preparing protein samples, electrophoresis of the protein samples in a polyacrylamide gel (*e.g.*, 8%- 20% SDS-PAGE depending on the molecular weight of the antigen), transferring the protein sample from the polyacrylamide gel to a membrane such as nitrocellulose, PVDF or nylon, blocking the membrane in blocking solution (*e.g.*, PBS with 3% BSA or non-fat milk), washing the membrane in washing buffer (*e.g.*, PBS-Tween 20), blocking the membrane with primary antibody (the antibody of interest) diluted in blocking buffer, washing the membrane in washing buffer, blocking the membrane with a secondary antibody (which recognizes the primary antibody, *e.g.*, an anti-human antibody) conjugated to an enzymatic substrate (*e.g.*, horseradish peroxidase or alkaline phosphatase) or radioactive molecule (*e.g.*, ^{32}P or ^{125}I) diluted in blocking buffer, washing the membrane in wash buffer, and detecting the presence of the antigen. One of skill in the art would be knowledgeable as to the parameters that can be modified to increase the signal detected and to reduce the background noise. For further discussion regarding western blot protocols see, *e.g.*, Ausubel et al, eds, 1994, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Vol. 1, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York at 10.8.1.

[0324] ELISAs comprise preparing antigen, coating the well of a 96-well microtiter plate with the antigen, washing away antigen that did not bind the wells, adding the antibody of interest conjugated to a detectable compound such as an enzymatic substrate (*e.g.*, horseradish peroxidase or alkaline phosphatase) to the wells and incubating for a period of time, washing away unbound antibodies or non-specifically bound antibodies, and detecting the presence of the antibodies specifically bound to the antigen coating the well. In ELISAs the antibody of interest does not have to be conjugated to a detectable compound; instead, a second antibody (which recognizes the antibody of interest) conjugated to a detectable compound may be added to the well. Further, instead of coating the well with the antigen, the antibody may be coated to the well. In this case, the detectable molecule could be the antigen conjugated to a detectable compound such as

an enzymatic substrate (e.g., horseradish peroxidase or alkaline phosphatase). One of skill in the art would be knowledgeable as to the parameters that can be modified to increase the signal detected as well as other variations of ELISAs known in the art. For further discussion regarding ELISAs see, e.g., Ausubel et al, eds, 1994, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Vol. 1, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York at 11.2.1.

[0325] The binding affinity of an antibody (including an scFv or other molecule comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) to an antigen and the off-rate of an antibody-antigen interaction can be determined by competitive binding assays. One example of a competitive binding assay is a radioimmunoassay comprising the incubation of labeled antigen (e.g., ^3H or ^{125}I) with the antibody of interest in the presence of increasing amounts of unlabeled antigen, and the detection of the antibody bound to the labeled antigen. The affinity of the antibody of the present invention for BLyS and the binding off-rates can be determined from the data by Scatchard plot analysis. Competition with a second antibody can also be determined using radioimmunoassays. In this case, BLyS is incubated with an antibody of the present invention conjugated to a labeled compound (e.g., ^3H or ^{125}I) in the presence of increasing amounts of an unlabeled second anti-BLyS antibody.

[0326] In a preferred embodiment, BIAcore kinetic analysis is used to determine the binding on and off rates of antibodies (including an scFv or other molecule comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) to BLyS, or fragments of BLyS. BIAcore kinetic analysis comprises analyzing the binding and dissociation of BLyS from chips with immobilized antibodies on their surface as described in detail in Examples 6, 12, 17 and 18, *infra*.

[0327] The antibodies of the invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) can also be assayed for their ability to inhibit, increase, or not significantly alter, the binding of BLyS to a BLyS receptor (e.g., TACI and BCMA) using techniques known to those of skill in the art. For example, cells expressing a receptor for BLyS (e.g., IM9, REH, ARH-77cells, Namalwa, and RPMI-8226 B cell tumor lines as well as peripheral CD20+ B cells) can be contacted with BLyS in the presence or absence of an antibody, and the ability of the antibody to inhibit, increase, or not significantly alter, BLyS binding to the cells can be measured. BLyS binding to cells can be measured by, for example, flow

cytometry or a scintillation assay. BLyS or the antibody can be labeled with a detectable compound such as a radioactive label (e.g., ^{32}P , ^{35}S , and ^{125}I) or a fluorescent label (e.g., fluorescein isothiocyanate, rhodamine, phycoerythrin, phycocyanin, allophycocyanin, o-phthaldehyde and fluorescamine) to enable detection of an interaction between BLyS and a BLyS receptor and/or BLyS and an antibody of the invention. Alternatively, the ability of antibodies of the invention to inhibit, increase, or not significantly alter, BLyS binding to a BLyS receptor can be determined in cell-free assays. For example, native or recombinant BLyS (e.g., that having the amino acid sequence of amino acids 134 – 285 of SEQ ID NO:3228) or a fragment thereof can be contacted with an antibody and the ability of the antibody to inhibit, increase, or not significantly alter, BLyS from binding to a BLyS receptor can be determined. Preferably, the antibody is immobilized on a solid support and BLyS or a BLyS fragment is labeled with a detectable compound. Alternatively, BLyS or a BLyS fragment is immobilized on a solid support and the antibody is labeled with a detectable compound. BLyS may be partially or completely purified (e.g., partially or completely free of other polypeptides) or part of a cell lysate. Further, the BLyS polypeptide may be a fusion protein comprising BLyS or a biologically active portion thereof and a domain such as an Immunoglobulin Fc or glutathionine-S-transferase. For example, amino acid residues 1-154 of TACI (GenBank accession number AAC51790), or 1-48 of BCMA (GenBank accession number NP_001183) may be fused to the Fc region of an IgG molecule and used in a cell free assay to determine the ability of antibodies of the invention to inhibit, increase, or not significantly alter, BLyS binding to a BLyS receptor. Alternatively, BLyS can be biotinylated using techniques well known to those of skill in the art (e.g., biotinylation kit, Pierce Chemicals; Rockford, IL).

[0328] The antibodies of the invention (including scFvs or other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), can also be assayed for their ability to inhibit, stimulate, or not significantly alter, BLyS-induced B-cell proliferation using techniques known to those of skill in the art. For example, B-cell proliferation can be assayed by ^3H -thymidine incorporation assays and trypan blue cell counts (see, e.g., Moore *et al.*, Science 285: 260-263 (1999)). Further, the antibodies of the invention, or fragments or variants thereof, can be assayed for their ability to block, stimulate, or not significantly alter, BLyS-induced activation of cellular signaling

molecules and transcription factors such as calcium-modulator and cyclophilin ligand ("CAML"), calcineurin, nuclear factor of activated T cells transcription factor ("NF-AT"), nuclear factor-kappa B ("NF-kappa B"), and AP-1 using techniques known to those of skill in the art (see, e.g., von Bulow and Bram, Science 278:138-141(1997)). For example, NF-AT activity can be determined by electromobility gel shift assays, by detecting the expression of a protein known to be regulated by NF-AT (e.g., IL-2 expression), by detecting the induction of a reporter gene (e.g., an NF-AT regulatory element operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a detectable marker such as luciferase, beta-galactosidase or chloramphenicol acetyltransferase (CAT)), or by detecting a cellular response (e.g., cellular differentiation, or cell proliferation).

[0329] The antibodies of the invention, or fragments or variants thereof can also be assayed for their ability to neutralize, enhance, or not significantly alter, BLyS activity. For example, antibodies or fragments or variants thereof, may be routinely tested for their ability to inhibit BLyS from binding to cells expressing the receptor for BLyS (see Example 3, *infra*).

Selection and Screening for Antibodies that Immunospecifically Bind to Soluble BLyS

[0330] Antibodies of the invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) may be screened in a variety of assays to identify those antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form of BLyS. In one particular assay, antibodies that bind to the biotinylated soluble form of BLyS in solution are captured on streptavidin coated magnetic beads. This assay may be relatively applied to identify antibodies of the invention that neutralize and/or bind to BLyS. Additionally, antibodies may be assayed in neutralization assays described herein or otherwise known in the art (see Example 3, *infra*). For example, antibodies may be tested for their ability to inhibit soluble BLyS (e.g., biotinylated BLyS) from binding to IM9 cells. In this assay, labeled soluble BLyS (e.g., biotinylated BLyS) is incubated with candidate anti-BLyS antibodies to allow for the formation of BLyS-anti-BLyS antibody complexes. Following incubation, an aliquot of the BLyS-anti-BLyS antibody sample is added to IM9 cells. The binding of soluble BLyS may be determined using techniques known in the art. For example, the binding of biotinylated BLyS to IM9 cells may be detected using a fluorimeter following the addition of streptavidin-delfia.

Biotinylated BLyS, if it is not bound by antibodies that neutralize BLyS, binds to the cells is detected. Thus, an antibody that decreases the amount of bio-BLyS that binds to IM-9 cells (relative to a control sample in which the BLyS had been preincubated with an irrelevant antibody or no antibody at all) is identified as one that binds to and neutralizes the soluble form of BLyS. In another assay, antibodies are screened using ELISAs for those antibodies that bind to biotinylated soluble BLyS, but do not bind membrane-bound BLyS, such as, for example, BLyS on membranes from U937 cells (see Examples 2 and 9, *infra*). In these assays, soluble BLyS (e.g., biotinylated BLyS) and membrane-bound BLyS (e.g., on U937 membranes) are incubated in separate samples with the same antibodies and those antibodies that bind to the soluble BLyS (biotinylated BLyS), but not membrane-bound BLyS (e.g., on U937 membranes) are captured and identified.

[0331] Antibodies of the invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) may be tested to identify those antibodies that do not cross-react with APRIL, endokine-alpha, VEGI, TRAIL, TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, Fas-L, LIGHT, and PBS (see Example 4, *infra*). Antibodies may also be tested for their affinity for BLyS using, for example, BIAcore analysis (see Examples 6, 12, 17 and 18 *infra*). Antibodies may also be tested for their ability to stimulate, inhibit, or not alter, BLyS-induced immunoglobulin production and/or B-cell proliferation using techniques known to those of skill in the art. For example, human B-cells, BLyS and antibodies may be incubated together in 96 well plates and ³H-thymidine incorporation may be measured using a scintillation counter.

Selection and Screening for Antibodies that Immunospecifically Bind to Membrane-bound BLyS

[0332] Antibodies of the invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) may be screened in a variety of assays to identify those antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the membrane-bound form of BLyS. In one particular assay, antibodies that bind to BLyS on U937 membranes or immobilized histidine-tagged BLyS are captured. Other cell lines that express BLyS that might be useful for testing antibody binding to membrane-bound form of BLyS include, K-562, HL-60 and THP-1 cells. In another assay, antibodies are screened using ELISAs for those antibodies (or antibody fragments or variants) that bind

to BLyS on U937 membranes or to histidine-tagged BLyS. In this assay, antibodies are added to 96 well plates coated with U937 membranes or histidine-tagged BLyS and those antibodies or antibody fragments or variants that bind to the U937 membranes or histidine-tagged BLyS are captured. In another assay, antibodies are screened using ELISAs for those antibodies (or antibody fragments or variants thereof) that do not bind to biotinylated BLyS (soluble BLyS) but bind to membrane-bound BLyS, such as, for example, that on membranes from U937 cells (see Example 2, *infra*). In these assays, soluble BLyS (e.g., biotinylated BLyS) and membrane-bound BLyS (e.g., on U937 membranes) are incubated in separate samples with the same antibodies (or antibody fragments or variants) and those antibodies (or antibody fragments or variants) that do not bind to the soluble BLyS (biotinylated BLyS), but bind the membrane-bound BLyS (e.g., on U937 membranes) are captured and identified. In other assays, antibodies are screened using ELISAs to determine which of the antibodies (or antibody fragments or variants) that bind to histidine-tagged BLyS or membranes from U937 cells do not cross-react with APRIL, endokine-alpha, VEGI, TRAIL, TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, Fas-L, LIGHT, and PBS (See Example 4, *infra*). ELISAs can also be used to determine which of the antibodies (or antibody fragments or variants) that bind to histidine-tagged BLyS or membranes from U937 cells bind to BLyS in the presence of TNF-alpha (see Example 4, *infra*). Antibodies or fragments or variants thereof that immunospecifically bind to the membrane-bound form of BLyS may also be tested for their affinity for histidine-tagged BLyS using high-throughput BIAcore analysis (see Example 14, *infra*).

[0333] Additionally, antibodies of the invention may be screened against cells engineered to express an “uncleavable” form of BLyS in order to determine their specificity for the membrane-bound form of BLyS. Mutations in BLyS which may achieve this result include, but are not limited to, the mutation or deletion of amino acid residues Lys-132 and/or Arg-133 of the BLyS sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3228. A typical mutagenesis might include mutation of one or both of residues Lys-132 or Arg-133 to alanine residues. Cells expressing such an “uncleavable” form of BLyS provide a profound reagent to use in assaying the ability of antibodies to bind the membrane-bound form of BLyS.

Selection and Screening for Antibodies that Immunospecifically Bind to Soluble and Membrane-bound BLyS

[0334] Antibodies of the invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternately consisting of, antibody fragments or variants) may be screened in a variety of assays to identify those antibodies or antibody fragments or variants that immunospecifically bind to the soluble form and membrane-bound form of BLyS. In one particular assay, antibodies that bind to immobilized BLyS are captured. In another assay, antibodies are screened using ELISAs for those antibodies (or antibody fragments or variants) that inhibit the binding of soluble BLyS (e.g. soluble bio-BLyS) to IM-9 cells as described *supra*. In other assays, antibodies are screened using ELISAs for those antibodies that bind to membranes from U937 cells. Additionally, further ELISA assays may be performed using techniques known in the art to determine which antibodies do not cross-react with APRIL, endokine-alpha, VEGI, TRAIL, TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, Fas-L, LIGHT, and PBS, or those antibodies that bind to BLyS in the presence of TNF-alpha (see Example 4 *infra*). Antibodies may be assayed in neutralization assays using techniques described herein or otherwise known in the art. Antibodies that immunospecifically bind to the soluble and membrane-bound forms of BLyS may also be tested for their affinity for BLyS using high-throughput BIAcore analysis.

Antibody Conjugates

[0335] The present invention encompasses antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), recombinantly fused or chemically conjugated (including both covalent and non-covalent conjugations) to a heterologous polypeptide (or portion thereof, preferably at least 10, at least 20, at least 30, at least 40, at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90 or at least 100 amino acids of the polypeptide) to generate fusion proteins. The fusion does not necessarily need to be direct, but may occur through linker sequences. For example, antibodies of the invention may be used to target heterologous polypeptides to particular cell types (e.g., cells of monocytic lineage and B-cells), either *in vitro* or *in vivo*, by fusing or conjugating the heterologous polypeptides to antibodies of the invention that are specific for particular cell surface antigens (e.g., membrane-bound BLyS on cells of monocytic lineage) or which bind antigens that bind particular cell surface receptors (e.g.,

TACI and/or BCMA located on B cells). Antibodies fused or conjugated to heterologous polypeptides may also be used in *in vitro* immunoassays and purification methods using methods known in the art. See *e.g.*, Harbor *et al.*, supra, and PCT publication WO 93/2 1232; EP 439,095; Naramura *et al.*, Immunol. Lett. 39:91-99 (1994); U.S. Patent 5,474,981; Gillies *et al.*, PNAS 89:1428-1432 (1992); Fell *et al.*, J. Immunol. 146:2446-2452 (1991), which are incorporated by reference in their entireties.

[0336] In one embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one of the VH domains referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide. In another embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VH CDR1s referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide. In another embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VH CDR2s referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide. In a preferred embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VH CDR3s referred to in Table 1 (i.e., SEQ ID NOS:2129 - 3227), and a heterologous polypeptide.

[0337] In another embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VL domains referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide. In another embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VL CDR1s referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide. In yet another embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VL CDR2s referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide. In a preferred embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VL CDR3s referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide.

[0338] In another embodiment, a fusion protein comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VH domains referred to in Table 1, and one or more VL domains referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide. In another embodiment, a fusion protein of the present invention comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any one of the VH CDRs referred to in Table 1, and any one of the VL CDRs referred to in Table 1, and a heterologous polypeptide.

[0339] The present invention further includes compositions comprising, or alternatively consisting of, heterologous polypeptides fused or conjugated to antibody fragments. For example, the heterologous polypeptides may be fused or conjugated to a Fab fragment, Fd fragment, Fv fragment, F(ab)₂ fragment, or a portion thereof. Methods for fusing or conjugating polypeptides to antibody portions are known in the art. See, *e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,336,603; 5,622,929; 5,359,046; 5,349,053; 5,447,851; 5,112,946; EP 307,434; EP 367,166; PCT publications WO 96/04388; WO 9 1/06570; Ashkenazi *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88: 10535-10539 (1991); Zheng *et al.*, J. Immunol. 154:5590-5600 (1995); and Vil *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:11337- 11341 (1992) (said references incorporated by reference in their entireties).

[0340] Additional fusion proteins of the invention may be generated through the techniques of gene-shuffling, motif-shuffling, exon-shuffling, and/or codon-shuffling (collectively referred to as "DNA shuffling"). DNA shuffling may be employed to modulate the activities of antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), such methods can be used to generate antibodies with altered activity (*e.g.*, antibodies with higher affinities and lower dissociation rates). See, generally, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,605,793; 5,811,238; 5,830,721; 5,834,252; and 5,837,458, and Patten *et al.*, Curr. Opinion Biotechnol. 8:724-33 (1997); Harayama, Trends Biotechnol. 16(2):76-82 (1998); Hansson, *et al.*, J. Mol. Biol. 287:265-76 (1999); and Lorenzo and Blasco, Biotechniques 24(2):308- 13 (1998) (each of these patents and publications are hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). In one embodiment, polynucleotides encoding antibodies of the invention may be altered by being subjected to random mutagenesis by error-prone PCR, random nucleotide insertion or other methods prior to recombination. In another embodiment, one or more portions of a polynucleotide encoding an antibody which portions immunospecifically bind to BLYS may be recombined with one or more components, motifs, sections, parts, domains, fragments, etc. of one or more heterologous molecules.

[0341] Moreover, the antibodies of the present invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), can be fused to marker sequences, such as a polypeptides to facilitate purification. In preferred embodiments, the marker amino acid sequence is a hexahistidine polypeptide, such as the tag provided in a pQE vector (QIAGEN, Inc., 9259 Eton

Avenue, Chatsworth, CA, 91311), among others, many of which are commercially available. As described in Gentz *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86:821-824 (1989), for instance, hexa-histidine provides for convenient purification of the fusion protein. Other peptide tags useful for purification include, but are not limited to, the hemagglutinin "HA" tag, which corresponds to an epitope derived from the influenza hemagglutinin protein (Wilson *et al.*, Cell 37:767 (1984)) and the "flag" tag (DYKDDDDK, (SEQ ID No: 3238) Stratagene, La Jolla, CA).

[0342] The present invention further encompasses antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), conjugated to a diagnostic or therapeutic agent. The antibodies can be used diagnostically to, for example, monitor or prognose the development or progression of a tumor as part of a clinical testing procedure to, *e.g.*, determine the efficacy of a given treatment regimen. Detection can be facilitated by coupling the antibody to a detectable substance. Examples of detectable substances include, but are not limited to, various enzymes, prosthetic groups, fluorescent materials, luminescent materials, bioluminescent materials, radioactive materials, positron emitting metals using various positron emission tomographies, and nonradioactive paramagnetic metal ions. The detectable substance may be coupled or conjugated either directly to the antibody or indirectly, through an intermediate (such as, for example, a linker known in the art) using techniques known in the art. See, for example, U.S. Patent No. 4,741,900 for metal ions which can be conjugated to antibodies for use as diagnostics according to the present invention. Examples of suitable enzymes include, but are not limited to, horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, beta-galactosidase, or acetylcholinesterase; examples of suitable prosthetic group complexes include, but are not limited to, streptavidin/biotin and avidin/biotin; examples of suitable fluorescent materials include, but are not limited to, umbelliferone, fluorescein, fluorescein isothiocyanate, rhodamine, dichlorotriazinylamine fluorescein, dansyl chloride or phycoerythrin; an example of a luminescent material includes, but is not limited to, luminol; examples of bioluminescent materials include, but are not limited to, luciferase, luciferin, and aequorin; and examples of suitable radioactive material include, but are not limited to, iodine (^{131}I , ^{125}I , ^{123}I , ^{121}I), carbon (^{14}C), sulfur (^{35}S), tritium (^3H), indium ($^{115\text{m}}\text{In}$, $^{113\text{m}}\text{In}$, ^{112}In , ^{111}In), and technetium ($^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$, $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$), thallium (^{201}Tl), gallium (^{68}Ga , ^{67}Ga), palladium (^{103}Pd), molybdenum (^{99}Mo), xenon

(¹³³Xe), fluorine (¹⁸F), ¹⁵³Sm, ¹⁷⁷Lu, ¹⁵⁹Gd, ¹⁴⁹Pm, ¹⁴⁰La, ¹⁷⁵Yb, ¹⁶⁶Ho, ⁹⁰Y, ⁴⁷Sc, ¹⁸⁶Re, ¹⁸⁸Re, ¹⁴²Pr, ¹⁰⁵Rh, ⁹⁷Ru, ⁶⁸Ge, ⁵⁷Co, ⁶⁵Zn, ⁸⁵Sr, ³²P, ¹⁵³Gd, ¹⁶⁹Yb, ⁵¹Cr, ⁵⁴Mn, ⁷⁵Se, ¹¹³Sn, and ¹¹⁷Tin.

[0343] Further, an antibody of the invention (including an scFv or other molecule comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), may be conjugated to a therapeutic moiety such as a cytotoxin, e.g., a cytostatic or cytocidal agent, a therapeutic agent or a radioactive metal ion, e.g., alpha-emitters such as, for example, ²¹³Bi. In specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention are attached to macrocyclic chelators useful for conjugating radiometal ions, including but not limited to, ¹¹¹In, ¹⁷⁷Lu, ⁹⁰Y, ¹⁶⁶Ho, and ¹⁵³Sm, to polypeptides. In preferred embodiments, the radiometal ion associated with the macrocyclic chelators attached to antibodies of the invention is ¹¹¹In. In preferred embodiments, the radiometal ion associated with the macrocyclic chelators attached to antibodies of the invention is ⁹⁰Y. In specific embodiments, the macrocyclic chelator is 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-N,N',N'',N'''-tetraacetic acid (DOTA). In other specific embodiments, the DOTA is attached to the antibody of the invention via a linker molecule. Examples of linker molecules useful for conjugating DOTA to a polypeptide are commonly known in the art - see, for example, DeNardo et al., Clin Cancer Res. 4(10):2483-90, 1998; Peterson et al., Bioconjug. Chem. 10(4):553-7, 1999; and Zimmerman et al, Nucl. Med. Biol. 26(8):943-50, 1999 which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[0344] A cytotoxin or cytotoxic agent includes any agent that is detrimental to cells and includes such molecules as small molecule toxins and enzymatically active toxins of bacterial, fungal, plant, or animal origin, or fragments thereof. Examples include, but are not limited to, paclitaxol, cytochalasin B, gramicidin D, ethidium bromide, emetine, mitomycin, etoposide (VP-16), teniposide, vincristine, vinblastine, colchicin, doxorubicin, daunorubicin, dihydroxy anthracin dione, mitoxantrone, mithramycin, actinomycin D, 1-dehydrotestosterone, glucocorticoids, procaine, tetracaine, lidocaine, propranolol, thymidine kinase, endonuclease, RNase, and puromycin and fragments, variants or homologs thereof. Therapeutic agents include, but are not limited to, antimetabolites (e.g., methotrexate, 6-mercaptopurine, 6-thioguanine, cytarabine, 5-fluorouracil decarbazine), alkylating agents (e.g., mechlorethamine, thioepa chlorambucil, melphalan, carmustine (BSNU) and lomustine (CCNU), cyclophosphamide, busulfan,

dibromomannitol, streptozotocin, mitomycin C, and cis-dichlorodiamine platinum (II) (DDP) cisplatin, anthracyclines (*e.g.*, daunorubicin (formerly daunomycin) and doxorubicin), antibiotics (*e.g.*, dactinomycin (formerly actinomycin), bleomycin, mithramycin, and anthramycin (AMC)), and anti-mitotic agents (*e.g.*, vincristine and vinblastine), improsulfan, pipsulfan, benzodopa, carboquone, meturedopa, uredopa, altretamine, triethylenemelamine, triethylenephosphoramidate, triethylenethiophosphoramidate trimethylolmelamine, chlornaphazine, cholophosphamide, estramustine, ifosfamide, novembichin, phenesterine, prednimustine, trofosfamide, uracil mustard, chlorozotocin, fotemustine, nimustine, ranimustine, aclacinomysins, azaserine, cactinomycin, calicheamicin, carabycin, carminomycin, carzinophilin, chromomycins, detorubicin, 6-diazo-5-oxo-L-norleucine, epirubicin, esorubicin, idarubicin, marcellomycin, mycophenolic acid, nogalamycin, olivomycins, peplomycin, potfiromycin, quelamycin, rodorubicin, streptonigrin, tubercidin, ubenimex, zinostatin, zorubicin, denopterin, pteropterin, trimetrexate, fludarabine, thiamiprine, ancitabine, azacitidine, 6-azauridine, carmofur, dideoxyuridine, doxifluridine, enocitabine, floxuridine, 5-FU, calusterone, dromostanolone propionate, epitioctanol, mepitiostane, testolactone, aminogluthethimide, mitotane, trilostane, frolic acid, aceglutone, aldophosphamide glycoside, aminolevulinic acid, amsacrine, bestabucil, bisantrene, edatraxate, defofamine, dernecolcine, diaziquone, elfornithine, elliptinium acetate, etoglucid, gallium nitrate, hydroxyurea, lentinan, lonidamine, mitoguazone, mopidamol, nitracrine, pentostatin, phenamet, pirarubicin, podophyllin acid, 2-ethylhydrazide, procarbazine, PSKO, razoxane, sizofiran, spirogermanium, tenuazonic acid, triaziquone, 2, 2',2"-trichlorotriethylamine, urethan, vindesine, dacarbazine, mannomustine, mitobronitol, mitolactol, pipobroman, gacytosine, arabinoside ("Ara-C"), taxoids, *e.g.* paclitaxel (TAXOL", Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology, Princeton, NJ) doxetaxel (TAXOTERE", Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, Antony, France), gemcitabine, ifosfamide, vinorelbine, navelbine, novantrone, teniposide, aminopterin, xeloda, ibandronate, CPT-11, topoisomerase inhibitor RFS 2000, difluoromethylornithine (DMFO), retinoic acid, esperamicins, capecitabine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, acids or derivatives of any of the above. Also included in this definition are anti-hormonal agents that act to regulate or inhibit hormone action on tumors such as anti-estrogens including for example tamoxifen, raloxifene, aromatase inhibiting 4(5)-imidazoles, 4-hydroxytamoxifen, trioxifene,

keoxifene, LY 117018, onapristone, toremifene (Fareston), and anti-androgens such as flutamide, nilutamide, bicalutamide, leuprolide, and goserelin, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, acids or derivatives of any of the above.

[0345] Techniques known in the art may be applied to label antibodies of the invention. Such techniques include, but are not limited to, the use of bifunctional conjugating agents (see e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,756,065; 5,714,631; 5,696,239; 5,652,361; 5,505,931; 5,489,425; 5,435,990; 5,428,139; 5,342,604; 5,274,119; 4,994,560; and 5,808,003; the contents of each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety) and direct coupling reactions (e.g., Bolton-Hunter and Chloramine-T reaction).

[0346] The antibodies of the invention which are conjugates can be used for modifying a given biological response, the therapeutic agent or drug moiety is not to be construed as limited to classical chemical therapeutic agents. For example, the drug moiety may be a protein or polypeptide possessing a desired biological activity. Such proteins may include, but are not limited to, for example, a toxin such as abrin, ricin A, alpha toxin, pseudomonas exotoxin, or diphtheria toxin, saporin, momordin, gelonin, pokeweed antiviral protein, alpha-sarcin and cholera toxin; a protein such as tumor necrosis factor, alpha-interferon, beta-interferon, nerve growth factor, platelet derived growth factor, tissue plasminogen activator, an apoptotic agent, e.g., TNF-alpha, TNF-beta, AIM I (see, International Publication No. WO 97/33899), AIM II (see, International Publication No. WO 97/34911), Fas Ligand (Takahashi *et al.*, *Int. Immunol.*, 6:1567-1574 (1994)), VEGI (see, International Publication No. WO 99/23105), a thrombotic agent or an anti-angiogenic agent, e.g., angiostatin or endostatin; or, biological response modifiers such as, for example, lymphokines, interleukin-1 (IL-1), interleukin-2 (IL-2), interleukin-6 (IL-6), granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), or other growth factors.

[0347] Antibodies of the invention (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), may also be attached to solid supports, which are particularly useful for immunoassays or purification of the target antigen. Such solid supports include, but are not limited to, glass, cellulose, polyacrylamide, nylon, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride or polypropylene.

[0348] Techniques for conjugating a therapeutic moiety to antibodies are well known, see, e.g., Arnon *et al.*, "Monoclonal Antibodies For Immunotargeting Of Drugs In

Cancer Therapy", in Monoclonal Antibodies And Cancer Therapy, Reisfeld *et al.* (eds.), pp. 243-56 (Alan R. Liss, Inc. 1985); Hellstrom *et al.*, "Antibodies For Drug Delivery", in Controlled Drug Delivery (2nd Ed.), Robinson *et al.* (eds.), pp. 623-53 (Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1987); Thorpe, "Antibody Carriers Of Cytotoxic Agents In Cancer Therapy: A Review", in Monoclonal Antibodies '84: Biological And Clinical Applications, Pinchera *et al.* (eds.), pp. 475-506 (1985); "Analysis, Results, And Future Prospective Of The Therapeutic Use Of Radiolabeled Antibody In Cancer Therapy", in Monoclonal Antibodies For Cancer Detection And Therapy, Baldwin *et al.* (eds.), pp. 303-16 (Academic Press 1985), and Thorpe *et al.*, "The Preparation And Cytotoxic Properties Of Antibody-Toxin Conjugates", Immunol. Rev. 62:119-58 (1982).

[0349] Alternatively, an antibody of the invention can be conjugated to a second antibody to form an antibody heteroconjugate as described by Segal in U.S. Patent No. 4,676,980, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0350] An antibody of the invention (including an scFv or other molecule comprising, or alternatively consisting of, an antibody fragment or variant thereof), with or without a therapeutic moiety conjugated to it, administered alone or in combination with cytotoxic factor(s) and/or cytokine(s) can be used as a therapeutic.

Use of Antibodies for Epitope Mapping

[0351] The present invention provides antibodies (including scFvs and other molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof), that can be used to identify epitopes of BLyS. In particular, the antibodies of the present invention can be used to identify epitopes of human BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:3228 and/or 3229) or BLyS expressed on human monocytes; murine BLyS (SEQ ID NOS:3230 and/or 3231) or BLyS expressed on murine monocytes; rat BLyS (either the soluble forms as given in SEQ ID NOS:3232, 3233, 3234 and/or 3235 or in a membrane associated form, *e.g.*, on the surface of rat monocytes); or monkey BLyS (*e.g.*, the monkey BLyS polypeptides of SEQ ID NOS:3236 and/or 3237, the soluble form of monkey BLyS, or BLyS expressed on monkey monocytes) using techniques described herein or otherwise known in the art. Fragments which function as epitopes may be produced by any conventional means. (See, *e.g.*, Houghten, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82:5131-5135 (1985), further described in U.S. Patent No. 4,631,211.)

Cela est d'autant plus valable que $T\Delta f$ est plus grand. A cet égard la figure 2 représente la vraie courbe donnant $|\phi(f)|$ en fonction de f pour les valeurs numériques indiquées page précédente.

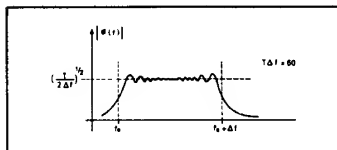


FIG. 2

Dans ce cas, le filtre adapté pourra être constitué, conformément à la figure 3, par la cascade :

— d'un filtre passe-bande de transfert unité pour $f_0 \leq f \leq f_0 + \Delta f$ et de transfert quasi nul pour $f < f_0$ et $f > f_0 + \Delta f$, filtre ne modifiant pas la phase des composants le traversant ;

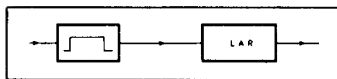


FIG. 3

— filtre suivi d'une ligne à retard (LAR) dispersant ayant un temps de propagation de groupe T_R décroissant linéairement avec la fréquence f suivant l'expression :

$$T_R = T_0 + (f_0 - f) \frac{T}{\Delta f} \quad (\text{avec } T_0 > T)$$

(voir fig. 4).

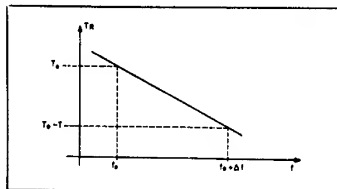


FIG. 4

telle ligne à retard est donnée par :

$$\varphi = -2\pi \int_0^f T_R df$$

$$\varphi = -2\pi \left[T_0 + \frac{f_0 T}{\Delta f} \right] f + \pi \frac{T}{\Delta f} f^2$$

Et cette phase est bien l'opposé de $\angle \phi(f)$,

à un déphasage constant près (sans importance) et à un retard T_0 près (inévitables).

Un signal utile $S(t)$ traversant un tel filtre adapté donne à la sortie (à un retard T_0 près et à un déphasage près de la porteuse) un signal dont la transformée de Fourier est réelle, constante entre f_0 et $f_0 + \Delta f$, et nulle de part et d'autre de f_0 et de $f_0 + \Delta f$, c'est-à-dire un signal de fréquence porteuse $f_0 + \Delta f/2$ et dont l'enveloppe a la forme indiquée à la figure 5, où l'on a représenté simultanément le signal $S(t)$ et le signal $S_1(t)$ correspondant obtenu à la sortie du filtre adapté. On comprend le nom de récepteur à compression d'impulsion donné à ce genre de filtre adapté : la « largeur » (à 3 dB) du signal comprimé étant égale à $1/\Delta f$, le rapport de compression est de

$$\text{est de } \frac{T}{1/\Delta f} = T\Delta f$$

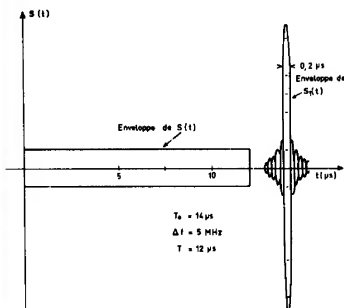


FIG. 5

On saisit physiquement le phénomène de compression en réalisant que lorsque le signal $S(t)$ entre dans la ligne à retard (LAR) la fréquence qui entre la première à l'instant 0 est la fréquence basse f_0 , qui met un temps T_0 pour traverser. La fréquence f entre à l'instant $t = (f - f_0) \frac{T}{\Delta f}$ et elle met un temps

$T_0 - (f - f_0) \frac{T}{\Delta f}$ pour traverser, ce qui la fait ressortir à l'instant T_0 également. Ainsi donc, le signal $S(t)$

[0355] Antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) which specifically bind to BLYS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor autoimmune disorders and/or immunodeficiencies, and/or diseases or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLYS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLYS in a biological sample from an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLYS; and (b) comparing the level of BLYS with a standard level of BLYS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase or decrease in the assayed level of BLYS compared to the standard level of BLYS is indicative of an autoimmune disorder or disease and/or an immunodeficiency. In specific embodiments, an increase in the assayed level of BLYS is indicative of an autoimmune disorder or disease. In other specific embodiments, a decrease in the assayed level of BLYS is indicative of an immunodeficiency.

[0356] Antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) which specifically bind to BLYS but, do not inhibit BLYS/BLYS receptor binding can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor autoimmune disorders and/or immunodeficiencies, and/or diseases or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLYS receptor comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLYS receptor in a biological sample from an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLYS; and (b) comparing the level of BLYS receptor with a standard level of BLYS receptor, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase or decrease in the assayed level of BLYS receptor compared to the standard level of BLYS receptor is indicative of an autoimmune disorder or disease and/or an immunodeficiency. In specific embodiments, an increase in the assayed level of BLYS receptor is indicative of an autoimmune disorder or disease. In other specific embodiments, a decrease in the assayed level of BLYS receptor is indicative of an immunodeficiency.

[0357] Autoimmune disorders, diseases, or conditions that may be detected, diagnosed, prognosed, or monitored using the antibodies of the invention include, but are not limited to, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, autoimmune neonatal thrombocytopenia, idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura, autoimmune neutropenia, autoimmune cytopenia,

hemolytic anemia, antiphospholipid syndrome, dermatitis, gluten-sensitive enteropathy, allergic encephalomyelitis, myocarditis, relapsing polychondritis, rheumatic heart disease, glomerulonephritis (e.g., IgA nephropathy), Multiple Sclerosis, Neuritis, Uveitis Ophthalmia, Polyendocrinopathies, Purpura (e.g., Henoch-Schoenlein purpura), Reiter's Disease, Stiff-Man Syndrome, Autoimmune Pulmonary Inflammation, myocarditis, IgA glomerulonephritis, dense deposit disease, rheumatic heart disease, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, diabetes mellitus (e.g. Type I diabetes mellitus or insulin dependent diabetes mellitus), juvenile onset diabetes, and autoimmune inflammatory eye, autoimmune thyroiditis, hypothyroidism (i.e., Hashimoto's thyroiditis, systemic lupus erythematosus, discoid lupus, Goodpasture's syndrome, Pemphigus, Receptor autoimmunities such as, for example, (a) Graves' Disease , (b) Myasthenia Gravis, and (c) insulin resistance, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, autoimmune thrombocytopenic purpura, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma with anti-collagen antibodies, mixed connective tissue disease, polymyositis/dermatomyositis, pernicious anemia (Addison's disease), idiopathic Addison's disease, infertility, glomerulonephritis such as primary glomerulonephritis and IgA nephropathy, bullous pemphigoid, Sjögren's syndrome, diabetes mellitus, and adrenergic drug resistance (including adrenergic drug resistance with asthma or cystic fibrosis), chronic active hepatitis, primary biliary cirrhosis, other endocrine gland failure, vitiligo, vasculitis, post-MI, cardiomyopathy syndrome, urticaria, atopic dermatitis, asthma, inflammatory myopathies, and other inflammatory, granulomatous, degenerative, and atrophic disorders and other disorders such as inflammatory skin diseases including psoriasis and sclerosis, responses associated with inflammatory bowel disease (such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis), respiratory distress syndrome (including adult respiratory distress syndrome, ARDS), meningitis, encephalitis, colitis, allergic conditions such as eczema and other conditions involving infiltration of T cells and chronic inflammatory responses, atherosclerosis, leukocyte adhesion deficiency, Reynaud's syndrome, and immune responses associated with acute and delayed hypersensitivity mediated by cytokines and T-lymphocytes typically found in tuberculosis, sarcoidosis, granulomatosis and diseases involving leukocyte diapedesis, central nervous system (CNS) inflammatory disorder, multiple organ injury syndrome, antigen-antibody complex mediated diseases, anti-glomerular basement membrane disease, Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome, Behcet disease, giant cell arteritis, immune complex nephritis, IgA

nephropathy, IgM polyneuropathies or autoimmune thrombocytopenia etc.

[0358] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses methods and compositions for detecting, diagnosing and/or prognosing diseases or disorders associated with hypergammaglobulinemia (e.g., AIDS, autoimmune diseases, and some immunodeficiencies). In other specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses methods and compositions for detecting, diagnosing and/or prognosing diseases or disorders associated with hypogammaglobulinemia (e.g., an immunodeficiency).

[0359] Immunodeficiencies that may be detected, diagnosed, prognosed, or monitored using the antibodies of the invention include, but are not limited to, severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)-X linked, SCID-autosomal, adenosine deaminase deficiency (ADA deficiency), X-linked agammaglobulinemia (XLA), Bruton's disease, congenital agammaglobulinemia, X-linked infantile agammaglobulinemia, acquired agammaglobulinemia, adult onset agammaglobulinemia, late-onset agammaglobulinemia, dysgammaglobulinemia, hypogammaglobulinemia, transient hypogammaglobulinemia of infancy, unspecified hypogammaglobulinemia, agammaglobulinemia, common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) (acquired), Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome (WAS), X-linked immunodeficiency with hyper IgM, non X-linked immunodeficiency with hyper IgM, selective IgA deficiency, IgG subclass deficiency (with or without IgA deficiency), antibody deficiency with normal or elevated Igs, immunodeficiency with thymoma, Ig heavy chain deletions, kappa chain deficiency, B cell lymphoproliferative disorder (BLPD), selective IgM immunodeficiency, recessive agammaglobulinemia (Swiss type), reticular dysgenesis, neonatal neutropenia, severe congenital leukopenia, thymic aplasia-aplasia or dysplasia with immunodeficiency, ataxia-telangiectasia, short limbed dwarfism, X-linked lymphoproliferative syndrome (XLP), Nezelof syndrome-combined immunodeficiency with Igs, purine nucleoside phosphorylase deficiency (PNP), MHC Class II deficiency (Bare Lymphocyte Syndrome) and severe combined immunodeficiency.

[0360] Elevated levels of soluble BLyS have been observed in the serum of patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). In comparing the sera of 150 SLE patients with that of 38 control individuals, it was found that most of the SLE patients had more than 5ng/ml of serum BLyS, more than 30% of SLE patients had levels greater than 10ng/ml, and approximately 10% of SLE patients had serum BLyS levels greater than

20ng/ml. In contrast, the majority of normal controls had BLyS levels less than 5ng/ml, and less than 10% had levels higher than 10ng/ml. The elevated levels of BLyS protein in sera is present in the soluble form and has biologic activity as assayed by the ability to stimulate anti-IgM treated B cells in vitro. SLE patients with more than 15ng/ml serum BLyS were also found to have elevated levels of anti-dsDNA antibodies compared to both normal controls and SLE patients with less than 5ng/ml of serum BLyS.(unpublished data).

[0361] In addition the serum of two subgroups of patients which were positive for anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA+) but did not meet the formal requirements of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) for classification of SLE were analyzed for BLyS levels. The first subgroup of sera was ANA+ sera that came from patients who did not present with the clinical impression of SLE. This group had only slightly elevated levels of BLyS (~9ng/ml BLyS). The second subgroup however, which was ANA+ sera from patients who presented with the clinical impression of SLE, had significantly increased BLyS levels (~15ng/ml). These results suggest that an elevated level of BLyS precedes the formal fulfillment of the ACR criteria. The ACR criteria are described in Tan, E.M., et al, *Arthritis and Rheumatism* 25:1271 – 1277 (1982).

[0362] Thus in specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor Systemic Lupus Erythematosus or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, e.g., in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of SLE.

[0363] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor IgA nephropathy or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of

BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of IgA nephropathy.

[0364] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor Sjögren's Syndrome or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of Sjögren's Syndrome.

[0365] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor HIV infection or conditions associated therewith (*e.g.* AIDS). The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of HIV infection.

[0366] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor Myasthenia Gravis or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of Myasthenia Gravis.

[0367] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose,

prognose, or monitor idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).

[0368] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor hemolytic anemia or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of hemolytic anemia.

[0369] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor thyroiditis or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of thyroiditis.

[0370] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor Goodpasture's syndrome or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby

an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of Goodpasture's syndrome.

[0371] In other specific embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor multiple sclerosis or conditions associated therewith. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of multiple sclerosis.

[0372] In additional embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor Rheumatoid Arthritis. The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample (*e.g.*, serum and synovial fluid) of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of Rheumatoid arthritis.

[0373] In additional embodiments, antibodies of the invention which specifically bind to BLyS can be used for diagnostic purposes to detect, diagnose, prognose, or monitor an immune-based rheumatologic disease, (*e.g.*, SLE, rheumatoid arthritis, CREST syndrome (a variant of scleroderma characterized by calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal motility disorders, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia.), Seronegative spondyloarthropathy (SpA), Polymyositis/dermatomyositis, Microscopic polyangiitis, Hepatitis C-associated arthritis, Takayasu's arteritis, and undifferentiated connective tissue disorder). The invention provides for the detection of aberrant expression of BLyS comprising: (a) assaying the expression of BLyS in a biological sample (*e.g.*, serum and synovial fluid) of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard level of BLyS, *e.g.*, in normal biological samples, whereby an

increase in the assayed level of BLyS compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of monitor an immune-based rheumatologic disease.

[0374] It has been observed, that serum BLyS levels inversely correlate with nephrotic range proteinuria ($>3\text{gm}$ proteinuria in a 24 hour urine collection) using a sample of 71 SLE patients ($p=0.019$). Proteinuria was determined in 71 SLE patients within one month of phlebotomy for serum BLyS determination. Serum BLyS was classified as low, normal, or high based on the 5th through 95th percentiles for normal controls. Nephrotic-range proteinuria was inversely correlated with serum Neutrokin- α levels. Thus, in specific embodiments, serum levels of BLyS (determined using one or more antibodies of the present invention) in individuals diagnosed with an immune based rheumatologic disease (e.g., SLE, rheumatoid arthritis, CREST syndrome (a variant of scleroderma characterized by calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal motility disorders, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia.), seronegative spondyloarthropathy (SpA), polymyositis/dermatomyositis, microscopic polyangiitis, hepatitis C-associated arthritis, Takayasu's arteritis, and undifferentiated connective tissue disorder) may be used to determine, diagnose, prognose, or monitor the severity of certain aspects or symptoms of the disease, such as nephrotic-range proteinuria.

[0375] In another specific embodiment, antibodies of the invention are used to diagnose, prognose, treat, or prevent conditions associated with CVID, including, but not limited to, conditions associated with acute and recurring infections (e.g., pneumonia, bronchitis, sinusitis, otitis media, sepsis, meningitis, septic arthritis, and osteomyelitis), chronic lung disease, autoimmunity, granulomatous disease, lymphoma, cancers (e.g., cancers of the breast, stomach, colon, mouth, prostate, lung, vagina, ovary, skin, and melanin forming cells (i.e. melanoma), inflammatory bowel disease (e.g., Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and ulcerative proctitis), malabsorption, Hodgkin's disease, and Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia.

[0376] The invention provides a diagnostic assay for diagnosing or prognosing a disease or disorder, comprising: (a) assaying for the level of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically bind to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard BLyS level, e.g., in a biological sample from a patient without the disease or disorder, whereby an increase or decrease in the assayed BLyS level compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative

of a particular disease or disorder. With respect to cancer, the presence of a relatively high amount of BLyS in biopsied tissue from an individual may indicate a predisposition for the development of the disease, or may provide a means for detecting the disease prior to the appearance of actual clinical symptoms. A more definitive diagnosis of this type may allow health professionals to employ preventative measures or aggressive treatment earlier thereby preventing the development or further progression of the cancer.

[0377] In specific embodiments, the presence of a relatively high amount of membrane-bound BLyS in a biological sample is indicative of monocytic cell related leukemias or lymphomas, such as, for example acute myelogenous leukemia and/or the severity thereof.

[0378] In other specific embodiments, the presence of a relatively high amount of BLyS receptor in a biological sample (as determined using antibodies of the invention that bind to soluble BLyS, but do not inhibit BLyS/BLyS receptor binding) is indicative of B cell related leukemias or lymphomas (e.g., chronic lymphocytic leukemia, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Hodgkin's disease), and/or the severity thereof.

[0379] In specific embodiments, the invention provides a diagnostic assay for diagnosing or prognosing Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, comprising: (a) assaying for the level of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically bind to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard BLyS level, e.g., in a biological sample from a patient without Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, whereby an increase in the assayed BLyS level compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.

[0380] In specific embodiments, the invention provides a diagnostic assay for diagnosing or prognosing a Rheumatoid Arthritis, comprising: (a) assaying for the level of BLyS in a biological sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that immunospecifically bind to BLyS; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS with a standard BLyS level, e.g., in a biological sample from a patient without Rheumatoid Arthritis, whereby an increase or decrease in the assayed BLyS level compared to the standard level of BLyS is indicative of Rheumatoid Arthritis.

[0381] The invention provides a diagnostic assay for diagnosing or prognosing a disease or disorder, comprising: (a) assaying for the level of BLyS receptor in cells or a tissue sample of an individual using one or more antibodies of the invention that

immunospecifically binds only to soluble BLyS, but does not neutralize BLyS /BLyS receptor binding; and (b) comparing the level of BLyS receptor with a standard BLyS receptor level, e.g., in a tissue sample from a patient without the disease or disorder, whereby an increase or decrease in the assayed BLyS receptor level compared to the standard level of BLyS receptor is indicative of a particular disease or disorder. With respect to cancer, the presence of a relatively high amount of BLyS receptor in biopsied tissue from an individual may indicate a predisposition for the development of the disease, or may provide a means for detecting the disease prior to the appearance of actual clinical symptoms. A more definitive diagnosis of this type may allow health professionals to employ preventative measures or aggressive treatment earlier thereby preventing the development or further progression of the cancer.

[0382] Antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) can be used to assay protein levels in a biological sample using classical immunohistological methods as described herein or as known to those of skill in the art (e.g., see Jalkanen, *et al.*, J. Cell. Biol. 101:976-985 (1985); Jalkanen, *et al.*, J. Cell . Biol. 105:3087-3096 (1987)). Other antibody-based methods useful for detecting protein gene expression include immunoassays, such as the enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and the radioimmunoassay (RIA). Suitable antibody assay labels are known in the art and include enzyme labels, such as, glucose oxidase, alkaline phosphatase, and horseradish peroxidase; radioisotopes, such as iodine (^{121}I , ^{123}I , ^{125}I , ^{131}I), carbon (^{14}C), sulfur (^{35}S), tritium (^3H), indium (^{111}In , ^{112}In , $^{113\text{m}}\text{In}$, $^{115\text{m}}\text{In}$), technetium (^{99}Tc , $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$), thallium (^{201}Tl), gallium (^{68}Ga , ^{67}Ga), palladium (^{103}Pd), molybdenum (^{99}Mo), xenon (^{133}Xe), fluorine (^{18}F), ^{153}Sm , ^{177}Lu , ^{159}Gd , ^{149}Pm , ^{140}La , ^{175}Yb , ^{166}Ho , ^{90}Y , ^{47}Sc , ^{186}Re , ^{188}Re , ^{142}Pr , ^{105}Rh , and ^{97}Ru ; luminescent labels, such as luminol; and fluorescent labels, such as fluorescein and rhodamine, and biotin.

[0383] One aspect of the invention is the detection and diagnosis of a disease or disorder associated with aberrant expression of BLyS or BLyS receptor in an animal, preferably a mammal and most preferably a human. In one embodiment, diagnosis comprises: a) administering (for example, parenterally, subcutaneously, or intraperitoneally) to a subject an effective amount of a labeled antibody of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or

variants thereof) that immunospecifically binds to BLyS; b) waiting for a time interval following the administering for permitting the labeled antibody to preferentially concentrate at sites in the subject where BLyS is expressed (and for unbound labeled molecule to be cleared to background level); c) determining background level; and d) detecting the labeled antibody in the subject, such that detection of labeled antibody or fragment thereof above the background level and above or below the level observed in a person without the disease or disorder indicates that the subject has a particular disease or disorder associated with aberrant expression of BLyS or BLyS receptor. Background level can be determined by various methods including, comparing the amount of labeled molecule detected to a standard value previously determined for a particular system.

[0384] It will be understood in the art that the size of the subject and the imaging system used will determine the quantity of imaging moiety needed to produce diagnostic images. In the case of a radioisotope moiety, for a human subject, the quantity of radioactivity injected will normally range from about 5 to 20 millicuries of ⁹⁹Tc. The labeled antibody will then preferentially accumulate at the location of cells which contain the specific protein. *In vivo* tumor imaging is described in S.W. Burchiel *et al.*, "Immunopharmacokinetics of Radiolabeled Antibodies and Their Fragments," (Chapter 13 in *Tumor Imaging: The Radiochemical Detection of Cancer*, S.W. Burchiel and B. A. Rhodes, eds., Masson Publishing Inc. (1982).

[0385] Depending on several variables, including the type of label used and the mode of administration, the time interval following the administration for permitting the labeled molecule to preferentially concentrate at sites in the subject and for unbound labeled molecule to be cleared to background level is 6 to 48 hours or 6 to 24 hours or 6 to 12 hours. In another embodiment the time interval following administration is 5 to 20 days or 5 to 10 days.

[0386] In an embodiment, monitoring of the disease or disorder is carried out by repeating the method for diagnosing the disease or disorder, for example, one month after initial diagnosis, six months after initial diagnosis, one year after initial diagnosis, etc.

[0387] Presence of the labeled molecule can be detected in the patient using methods known in the art for *in vivo* scanning. These methods depend upon the type of label used. Skilled artisans will be able to determine the appropriate method for detecting a particular label. Methods and devices that may be used in the diagnostic methods of the

invention include, but are not limited to, computed tomography (CT), whole body scan such as position emission tomography (PET), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and sonography.

[0388] In a specific embodiment, the molecule is labeled with a radioisotope and is detected in the patient using a radiation responsive surgical instrument (Thurston *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,441,050). In another embodiment, the molecule is labeled with a fluorescent compound and is detected in the patient using a fluorescence responsive scanning instrument. In another embodiment, the molecule is labeled with a positron emitting metal and is detected in the patient using positron emission-tomography. In yet another embodiment, the molecule is labeled with a paramagnetic label and is detected in a patient using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Immunophenotyping

[0389] The antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) may be utilized for immunophenotyping of cell lines and biological samples by their BLyS expression or BLyS receptor expression. Various techniques can be utilized using antibodies, fragments, or variants of the invention to screen for cellular populations (*i.e.*, immune cells, particularly monocytic cells or B-cells) expressing BLyS or BLyS receptor, and include magnetic separation using antibody-coated magnetic beads, "panning" with antibody attached to a solid matrix (*i.e.*, plate), and flow cytometry (see, *e.g.*, U.S. Patent 5,985,660; and Morrison *et al.*, Cell, 96:737-49 (1999)).

[0390] These techniques allow for the screening of particular populations of cells, such as might be found with hematological malignancies (*i.e.*, minimal residual disease (MRD) in acute leukemic patients) and "non-self" cells in transplantations to prevent Graft-versus-Host Disease (GVHD). Alternatively, these techniques allow for the screening of hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells capable of undergoing proliferation and/or differentiation, as might be found in human umbilical cord blood.

[0391] In one embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) are used to identify cells of monocytic or B cell origin.

Therapeutic Uses of Antibodies

[0392] The present invention is further directed to antibody-based therapies which involve administering antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) to an animal, preferably a mammal, and most preferably a human, patient for treating one or more of the disclosed diseases, disorders, or conditions. Therapeutic compounds of the invention include, but are not limited to, antibodies of the invention and nucleic acids encoding antibodies (and anti-idiotypic antibodies) of the invention as described herein. The antibodies of the invention can be used to treat, ameliorate or prevent diseases, disorders or conditions associated with aberrant expression and/or activity of BLyS or BLyS receptor, including, but not limited to, any one or more of the diseases, disorders, or conditions described herein. The treatment and/or prevention of diseases, disorders, or conditions associated with aberrant BLyS expression and/or activity or aberrant BLyS receptor expression and/or activity includes, but is not limited to, alleviating symptoms associated with those diseases, disorders or conditions. Antibodies of the invention may be provided in pharmaceutically acceptable compositions as known in the art or as described herein.

[0393] Antibodies of the present invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that function as agonists or antagonists of BLyS, preferably of BLyS-induced signal transduction, can be administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression, lack of BLyS function, aberrant BLyS receptor expression, or lack of BLyS receptor function. For example, antibodies of the invention which disrupt the interaction between BLyS and its receptor may be administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression, excessive BLyS function, aberrant BLyS receptor expression, or excessive of BLyS receptor function. Antibodies of the invention which do not prevent BLyS from binding its receptor but inhibit or downregulate BLyS-induced signal transduction can be administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression, excessive BLyS function, aberrant BLyS receptor expression, or excessive BLyS receptor function. In particular, antibodies of the present invention which prevent BLyS-induced signal transduction by specifically recognizing the unbound BLyS, receptor-bound BLyS or both unbound and receptor-bound BLyS can be

administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression, excessive BLyS function, aberrant BLyS receptor expression, or excessive BLyS receptor function. The ability of an antibody of the invention to inhibit or downregulate BLyS-induced signal transduction may be determined by techniques described herein or otherwise known in the art. For example, BLyS-induced receptor activation and the activation of signaling molecules can be determined by detecting the phosphorylation (*e.g.*, tyrosine or serine/threonine) of the receptor or a signaling molecule by immunoprecipitation followed by western blot analysis (for example, as described herein).

[0394] In a specific embodiment, an antibody of the present invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that inhibits or downregulates BLyS activity by at least 95%, at least 90%, at least 85%, at least 80%, at least 75%, at least 70%, at least 60%, at least 50%, at least 45%, at least 40%, at least 35%, at least 30%, at least 25%, at least 20%, or at least 10% relative to BLyS activity in absence of the antibody is administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression, excessive BLyS function, aberrant BLyS receptor expression, or excessive BLyS receptor function. In another embodiment, a combination of antibodies, a combination of antibody fragments, a combination of antibody variants, or a combination of antibodies, antibody fragments, and/or variants that inhibit or downregulate BLyS activity by at least 95%, at least 90%, at least 85%, at least 80%, at least 75%, at least 70%, at least 65%, at least 60%, at least 55%, at least 50%, at least 45%, at least 40%, at least 35%, at least 30%, at least 25%, at least 20%, or at least 10% relative to BLyS activity in absence of said antibodies, antibody fragments, and/or antibody variants are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression, excessive BLyS function, aberrant BLyS receptor expression, or excessive BLyS receptor function.

[0395] Further, antibodies of the present invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) which activate BLyS-induced signal transduction can be administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression, lack of BLyS function, aberrant BLyS receptor expression, or lack of BLyS receptor function.

These antibodies may potentiate or activate either all or a subset of the biological activities of BLyS-mediated receptor activation, for example, by inducing multimerization of BLyS and/or multimerization of the receptor. The antibodies of the invention may be administered with or without being pre-complexed with BLyS. In a specific embodiment, an antibody of the present invention that increases BLyS activity by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 15%, at least 20%, at least 25%, at least 30%, at least 35%, at least 40%, at least 45%, at least 50%, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 65%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 99% relative to BLyS activity in absence of the antibody is administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression, lack of BLyS function, aberrant BLyS receptor expression, or lack of BLyS receptor function. In another embodiment, a combination of antibodies, a combination of antibody fragments, a combination of antibody variants, or a combination of antibodies, antibody fragments and/or antibody variants that increase BLyS activity by at least 5%, at least 10%, at least 15%, at least 20%, at least 25%, at least 30%, at least 35%, at least 40%, at least 45%, at least 50%, at least 55%, at least 60%, at least 65%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 99% relative to BLyS activity in absence of the said antibodies or antibody fragments and/or antibody variants is administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder associated with aberrant BLyS expression or lack of BLyS function or aberrant BLyS receptor expression or lack of BLyS receptor function.

[0396] One or more antibodies of the present invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that immunospecifically bind to BLyS may be used locally or systemically in the body as a therapeutic. The antibodies of this invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) may also be advantageously utilized in combination with other monoclonal or chimeric antibodies, or with lymphokines or hematopoietic growth factors (such as, *e.g.*, IL-2, IL-3 and IL-7), for example, which serve to increase the number or activity of effector cells which interact with the antibodies.

[0397] The antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) may be administered

alone or in combination with other types of treatments (e.g., radiation therapy, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, immunotherapy, anti-tumor agents, anti-angiogenesis and anti-inflammatory agents). Generally, administration of products of a species origin or species reactivity (in the case of antibodies) that is the same species as that of the patient is preferred. Thus, in a preferred embodiment, human antibodies, fragments, or variants, (e.g., derivatives), or nucleic acids, are administered to a human patient for therapy or prophylaxis.

[0398] It is preferred to use high affinity and/or potent *in vivo* inhibiting and/or neutralizing antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) that immunospecifically bind to BLYS, or polynucleotides encoding antibodies that immunospecifically bind to BLYS, for both immunoassays directed to and therapy of disorders related to BLYS polynucleotides or polypeptides, including fragments thereof. Such antibodies will preferably have an affinity for BLYS and/or BLYS fragments. Preferred binding affinities include those with a dissociation constant or K_D less than or equal to 5×10^{-2} M, 10^{-2} M, 5×10^{-3} M, 10^{-3} M, 5×10^{-4} M, 10^{-4} M, 5×10^{-5} M, or 10^{-5} M. More preferably, antibodies of the invention bind BLYS polypeptides or fragments or variants thereof with a dissociation constant or K_D less than or equal to 5×10^{-6} M, 10^{-6} M, 5×10^{-7} M, 10^{-7} M, 5×10^{-8} M, or 10^{-8} M. Even more preferably, antibodies of the invention bind BLYS polypeptides or fragments or variants thereof with a dissociation constant or K_D less than or equal to 5×10^{-9} M, 10^{-9} M, 5×10^{-10} M, 10^{-10} M, 5×10^{-11} M, 10^{-11} M, 5×10^{-12} M, 10^{-12} M, 5×10^{-13} M, 10^{-13} M, 5×10^{-14} M, 10^{-14} M, 5×10^{-15} M, or 10^{-15} M. The invention encompasses antibodies that bind BLYS polypeptides with a dissociation constant or K_D that is within any one of the ranges that are between each of the individual recited values.

[0399] In a preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention neutralize BLYS activity. In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention inhibit B cell proliferation.

[0400] In a preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) inhibit or reduce binding of the soluble form of BLYS to a BLYS receptor. In another preferred embodiment antibodies of the invention inhibit or reduce B cell proliferation induced by the soluble form of BLYS. In another preferred embodiment

antibodies of the invention inhibit or reduce immunoglobulin production induced by the soluble form of BLyS.

[0401] In a preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) inhibit or reduce binding of membrane-bound BLyS to a BLyS receptor. In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention inhibit or reduce B cell proliferation induced by the membrane-bound form of BLyS. In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention inhibit or reduce immunoglobulin production induced by the membrane bound form of BLyS.

[0402] In a preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including molecules comprising, or alternatively consisting of, antibody fragments or variants thereof) inhibit or reduce binding of both the soluble and membrane-bound forms of BLyS to a BLyS receptor. In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention inhibit or reduce B cell proliferation induced by either or both forms of BLyS. In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention inhibit or reduce immunoglobulin production induced by either or both forms of BLyS.

[0403] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method of delivering antibody conjugates of the invention to targeted cells, such as, for example, monocytic cells expressing the membrane-bound form of BLyS, or B cells expressing a BLyS receptor.

[0404] In one embodiment, the invention provides a method for the specific delivery of antibodies and antibody conjugates of the invention to cells by administering molecules of the invention that are associated with heterologous polypeptides or nucleic acids. In one example, the invention provides a method for delivering a therapeutic protein into the targeted cell. In another example, the invention provides a method for delivering a single stranded nucleic acid (e.g., antisense or ribozymes) or double stranded nucleic acid (e.g., DNA that can integrate into the cell's genome or replicate episomally and that can be transcribed) into the targeted cell.

[0405] In another embodiment, the invention provides a method for the specific destruction of cells (e.g., the destruction of tumor cells) by administering antibodies or antibody conjugates of the invention (e.g., antibodies conjugated with radioisotopes, toxins, or cytotoxic prodrugs). In a specific embodiment, the invention provides a method for the specific destruction of cells of monocytic lineage (e.g., monocytic cell related

leukemias or lymphomas, such as, for example acute myelogenous leukemia) by administering antibodies or antibody conjugates of the invention (e.g., antibodies conjugated with radioisotopes, toxins, or cytotoxic prodrugs) that immunospecifically bind the membrane-bound form of BLyS. In another specific embodiment, the invention provides a method for the specific destruction of cells of B cell lineage (e.g., B cell related leukemias or lymphomas (e.g., chronic lymphocytic leukemia, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Hodgkin's disease) by administering antibodies or antibody conjugates of the invention (e.g., antibodies conjugated with radioisotopes, toxins, or cytotoxic prodrugs) that bind soluble BLyS, but do not inhibit BLyS binding to a BLyS receptor on B cells.

[0406] In another preferred embodiment antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants) promote or enhance B cell proliferation induced by the soluble form of BLyS. In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants) promote or enhance B cell proliferation induced by the membrane or soluble form of APRIL. In another preferred embodiment antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants) increase or enhance immunoglobulin production induced by the soluble form of BLyS. In another preferred embodiment antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants) increase or enhance immunoglobulin production induced by the membrane bound or soluble form of APRIL. In another preferred embodiment antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants) increase or enhance immunoglobulin production in response to T cell dependent immunogens. In another preferred embodiment antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants, and anti-antibody antibodies) increase or enhance immunoglobulin production in response to T cell independent immunogens.

[0407] In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate immune disorders. Immune disorders include, but are not limited to, autoimmune disorders (e.g., arthritis, graft rejection, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, insulin-dependent diabetes, lupus, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, systemic lupus erythematosus and multiple sclerosis), elective IgA deficiency, ataxia-telangiectasia, common variable immunodeficiency (CVID), X-linked agammaglobulinemia, severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), Wiskott-

Aldrich syndrome, idiopathic hyper-eosinophilic syndrome, monocytic leukemoid reaction, monocytic leukocytosis, monocytic leukopenia, monocytopenia, monocytosis, and graft or transplant rejection.

[0408] As discussed herein, antibodies and antibody compositions of the invention, may be used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose various immune system-related disorders and/or conditions associated with these disorders, in mammals, preferably humans. Many autoimmune disorders result from inappropriate recognition of self as foreign material by immune cells. This inappropriate recognition results in an immune response leading to the destruction of the host tissue. Therefore, the administration of antibody and antibody compositions of the invention that can inhibit an immune response, particularly the proliferation of B cells and/or the production of immunoglobulins, may be an effective therapy in treating and/or preventing autoimmune disorders. Thus, in preferred embodiments, antibodies and antibody compositions of the invention are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose and/or prognose an autoimmune disorder, or condition(s) associated with such disorder.

[0409] Autoimmune disorders and conditions associated with these disorders that may be treated, prevented, ameliorated, diagnosed and/or prognosed with the therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, autoimmune neonatal thrombocytopenia, idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura, autoimmune neutropenia, autoimmunocytopenia, hemolytic anemia, antiphospholipid syndrome, dermatitis, gluten-sensitive enteropathy, allergic encephalomyelitis, myocarditis, relapsing polychondritis, rheumatic heart disease, glomerulonephritis (e.g., IgA nephropathy), Multiple Sclerosis, Neuritis, Uveitis Ophthalmia, Polyendocrinopathies, Purpura (e.g., Henloch-Schoenlein purpura), Reiter's Disease, Stiff-Man Syndrome, Autoimmune Pulmonary Inflammation, myocarditis, IgA glomerulonephritis, dense deposit disease, rheumatic heart disease, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, and autoimmune inflammatory eye disease.

[0410] Additional autoimmune disorders and conditions associated with these disorders that may be treated, prevented, ameliorated, diagnosed and/or prognosed with the therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, autoimmune thyroiditis, hypothyroidism (i.e., Hashimoto's thyroiditis) (often characterized, e.g., by cell-mediated and humoral thyroid cytotoxicity), systemic lupus

erythematosus (often characterized, e.g., by circulating and locally generated immune complexes), discoid lupus, Goodpasture's syndrome (often characterized, e.g., by anti-basement membrane antibodies), Pemphigus (often characterized, e.g., by epidermal acantholytic antibodies), Receptor autoimmunities such as, for example, (a) Graves' Disease (often characterized, e.g., by TSH receptor antibodies), (b) Myasthenia Gravis (often characterized, e.g., by acetylcholine receptor antibodies), and (c) insulin resistance (often characterized, e.g., by insulin receptor antibodies), autoimmune hemolytic anemia (often characterized, e.g., by phagocytosis of antibody-sensitized RBCs), autoimmune thrombocytopenic purpura (often characterized, e.g., by phagocytosis of antibody-sensitized platelets).

[0411] Additional autoimmune disorders and conditions associated with these disorders that may be treated, prevented, ameliorated, diagnosed and/or prognosed with the therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, rheumatoid arthritis (often characterized, e.g., by immune complexes in joints), scleroderma with anti-collagen antibodies (often characterized, e.g., by nucleolar and other nuclear antibodies), mixed connective tissue disease (often characterized, e.g., by antibodies to extractable nuclear antigens (e.g., ribonucleoprotein)), polymyositis/dermatomyositis (often characterized, e.g., by nonhistone ANA), pernicious anemia (often characterized, e.g., by antiparietal cell, microsomes, and intrinsic factor antibodies), idiopathic Addison's disease (often characterized, e.g., by humoral and cell-mediated adrenal cytotoxicity, infertility (often characterized, e.g., by antispermatozoal antibodies), glomerulonephritis (often characterized, e.g., by glomerular basement membrane antibodies or immune complexes) such as primary glomerulonephritis and IgA nephropathy, bullous pemphigoid (often characterized, e.g., by IgG and complement in basement membrane), Sjögren's syndrome (often characterized, e.g., by multiple tissue antibodies, and/or a specific nonhistone ANA (SS-B)), diabetes mellitus (often characterized, e.g., by cell-mediated and humoral islet cell antibodies), and adrenergic drug resistance (including adrenergic drug resistance with asthma or cystic fibrosis) (often characterized, e.g., by beta-adrenergic receptor antibodies), chronic active hepatitis (often characterized, e.g., by smooth muscle antibodies), primary biliary cirrhosis (often characterized, e.g., by mitochondrial antibodies), other endocrine gland failure (often characterized, e.g., by specific tissue antibodies in some cases), vitiligo (often

characterized, e.g., by melanocyte antibodies), vasculitis (often characterized, e.g., by Ig and complement in vessel walls and/or low serum complement), post-MI (often characterized, e.g., by myocardial antibodies), cardiomy syndrome (often characterized, e.g., by myocardial antibodies), urticaria (often characterized, e.g., by IgG and IgM antibodies to IgE), atopic dermatitis (often characterized, e.g., by IgG and IgM antibodies to IgE), asthma (often characterized, e.g., by IgG and IgM antibodies to IgE), inflammatory myopathies, and many other inflammatory, granulomatous, degenerative, and atrophic disorders.

[0412] In a preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, a member of the group: autoimmune hemolytic anemia, as primary glomerulonephritis, IgA glomerulonephritis, Goodpasture's syndrome, idiopathic thrombocytopenia, Multiple Sclerosis, Myasthenia Gravis, Pemphigus, polymyositis/dermatomyositis, relapsing polychondritis, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjögren's syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, Uveitis, vasculitis, and primary biliary cirrhosis.

[0413] In another preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, an immune based-rheumatologic disease, such as, for example, SLE, rheumatoid arthritis, CREST syndrome (a variant of scleroderma characterized by calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal motility disorders, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia.), Seronegative spondyloarthropathy (SpA), polymyositis/ dermatomyositis, microscopic polyangiitis, hepatitis C-associated arthritis, Takayasu's arteritis, and undifferentiated connective tissue disorder.

[0414] In a specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, rheumatoid arthritis and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0415] For example, an antibody, or antibodies, of the present invention are used to treat patients with clinical diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The patient treated preferably will not have a B cell malignancy. Moreover, the patient is optionally further treated with any one or more agents employed for treating RA such as salicylate; nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as indomethacin, phenylbutazone, phenylacetic acid derivatives (e.g. ibuprofen and fenoprofen), naphthalene acetic acids (naproxen),

pyrrolealkanoic acid (tometin), indoleacetic acids (sulindac), halogenated anthranilic acid (meclofenamate sodium), piroxicam, zomepirac and diflunisal; antimalarials such as chloroquine; gold salts; penicillamine; or immunosuppressive agents such as methotrexate or corticosteroids in dosages known for such drugs or reduced dosages. Preferably however, the patient is only treated with an antibody, or antibodies, of the present invention. Antibodies of the present invention are administered to the RA patient according to a dosing schedule as described *infra*, which may be readily determined by one of ordinary skill in the art. The primary response is determined by the Paulus index (Paulus et al. Arthritis Rheum. 33:477-484 (1990)), *i.e.* improvement in morning stiffness, number of painful and inflamed joints, erythrocyte sedimentation (ESR), and at least a 2-point improvement on a 5-point scale of disease severity assessed by patient and by physician. Administration of an antibody, or antibodies, of the present invention will alleviate one or more of the symptoms of RA in the patient treated as described above.

[0416] In a specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, lupus and/or medical conditions associated therewith. Lupus-associated conditions that may be treated, prevented, ameliorated, prognosed and/or diagnosed with the antibodies and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, hematologic disorders (e.g., hemolytic anemia, leukopenia, lymphopenia, and thrombocytopenia), immunologic disorders (e.g., anti-DNA antibodies, and anti-Sm antibodies), rashes, photosensitivity, oral ulcers, arthritis, fever, fatigue, weight loss, serositis (e.g., pleuritis (pleurisy)), renal disorders (e.g., nephritis), neurological disorders (e.g., seizures, peripheral neuropathy, CNS related disorders), gastrointestinal disorders, Raynaud phenomenon, and pericarditis. In a preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose, or prognose, renal disorders associated with systemic lupus erythematosus. In a most preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose, or prognose, nephritis associated with systemic lupus erythematosus. In another most preferred embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate lupus or glomerular nephritis.

[0417] In a further specific embodiment, antibodies of the invention are used to treat, inhibit, prognose, diagnose or prevent hemolytic anemia. For example, patients diagnosed with autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA), *e.g.*, cryoglobulinemia or Coombs positive anemia, are treated with an antibody, or antibodies, of the present invention. AIHA is an acquired hemolytic anemia due to auto-antibodies that react with the patient's red blood cells. The patient treated preferably will not have a B cell malignancy. Further adjunct therapies (such as glucocorticoids, prednisone, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, vinca-laden platelets or Danazol) may be combined with the antibody therapy, but preferably the patient is treated with an antibody, or antibodies, of the present invention as a single-agent throughout the course of therapy. Antibodies of the present invention are administered to the hemolytic anemia patient according to a dosing schedule as described *infra*, which may be readily determined by one of ordinary skill in the art. Overall response rate is determined based upon an improvement in blood counts, decreased requirement for transfusions, improved hemoglobin levels and/or a decrease in the evidence of hemolysis as determined by standard chemical parameters. Administration of an antibody, or antibodies of the present invention will improve any one or more of the symptoms of hemolytic anemia in the patient treated as described above. For example, the patient treated as described above will show an increase in hemoglobin and an improvement in chemical parameters of hemolysis or return to normal as measured by serum lactic dehydrogenase and/or bilirubin.

[0418] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, Sjögren's Syndrome and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0419] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, HIV infection and/or medical conditions associated therewith (*e.g.* AIDS).

[0420] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, Myasthenia gravis and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0421] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, IgA nephropathy and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0422] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, hemolytic anemia and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0423] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, thyroiditis and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0424] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, Goodpasture's Syndrome and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0425] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, multiple sclerosis and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0426] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0427] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, multiple myeloma and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0428] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0429] In another specific preferred embodiment, therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, are used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose or prognose, Hodgkin's disease and/or medical conditions associated therewith.

[0430] In another specific embodiment, antibodies of the invention are used to treat, inhibit, prognose, diagnose or prevent adult immune thrombocytopenic purpura. Adult immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) is a relatively rare hematologic disorder that constitutes the most common of the immune-mediated cytopenias. The disease typically presents with severe thrombocytopenia that may be associated with acute hemorrhage in the presence of normal to increased megakaryocytes in the bone marrow. Most patients with ITP have an IgG antibody directed against target antigens on the outer surface of the platelet membrane, resulting in platelet sequestration in the spleen and

accelerated reticuloendothelial destruction of platelets (Bussell, J.B. Hematol. Oncol. Clin. North Am. (4):179 (1990)). A number of therapeutic interventions have been shown to be effective in the treatment of ITP. Steroids are generally considered first-line therapy, after which most patients are candidates for intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), splenectomy, or other medical therapies including vincristine or immunosuppressive/cytotoxic agents. Up to 80% of patients with ITP initially respond to a course of steroids, but far fewer have complete and lasting remissions. Splenectomy has been recommended as standard second-line therapy for steroid failures, and leads to prolonged remission in nearly 60% of cases yet may result in reduced immunity to infection. Splenectomy is a major surgical procedure that may be associated with substantial morbidity (15%) and mortality (2%). IVIG has also been used as second line medical therapy, although only a small proportion of adult patients with ITP achieve remission. Therapeutic options that would interfere with the production of autoantibodies by activated B cells without the associated morbidities that occur with corticosteroids and/or splenectomy would provide an important treatment approach for a proportion of patients with ITP. Patients with clinical diagnosis of ITP are treated with an antibody, or antibodies of the present invention, optionally in combination with steroid therapy. The patient treated will not have a B cell malignancy. Antibodies of the present invention are administered to the RA patient according to a dosing schedule as described *infra*, which may be readily determined by one of ordinary skill in the art. Overall patient response rate is determined based upon a platelet count determined on two consecutive occasions two weeks apart following treatments as described above. See, George et al. "Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura: A Practice Guideline Developed by Explicit Methods for The American Society of Hematology", Blood 88:3-40 (1996), expressly incorporated herein by reference.

[0431] In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate an IgE-mediated allergic reaction or histamine-mediated allergic reaction. Examples of allergic reactions include, but are not limited to, asthma, rhinitis, eczema, chronic urticaria, and atopic dermatitis. In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent, or ameliorate anaphylaxis, hypersensitivity to an antigenic molecule, or blood group incompatibility. In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are

administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate or modulate inflammation or an inflammatory disorder. Examples of chronic and acute inflammatory disorders that may be treated prevented or ameliorated with the therapeutic and pharmaceutical compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, chronic prostatitis, granulomatous prostatitis and malacoplakia, inflammation associated with infection (e.g., septic shock, sepsis, or systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS)), ischemia-reperfusion injury, endotoxin lethality, arthritis, complement-mediated hyperacute rejection, nephritis, cytokine or chemokine induced lung injury, Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease, chronic and acute inflammatory pulmonary diseases, bacterial infection, psoriasis, septicemia, cerebral malaria, arthritis, gastroenteritis, and glomerular nephritis.

[0432] In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate ischemia and arteriosclerosis. Examples of such disorders include, but are not limited to, reperfusion damage (e.g., in the heart and/or brain) and cardiac hypertrophy.

[0433] Therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, may also be administered to modulate blood clotting and to treat or prevent blood clotting disorders, such as, for example, antibody-mediated thrombosis (i.e., antiphospholipid antibody syndrome (APS)). For example, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, may inhibit the proliferation and differentiation of cells involved in producing anticardiolipin antibodies. These compositions of the invention can be used to treat, prevent, ameliorate, diagnose, and/or prognose thrombotic related events including, but not limited to, stroke (and recurrent stroke), heart attack, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, coronary artery disease (e.g., antibody-mediated coronary artery disease), thrombosis, graft reocclusion following cardiovascular surgery (e.g., coronary arterial bypass grafts, recurrent fetal loss, and recurrent cardiovascular thromboembolic events.

[0434] Therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention, may also be administered to treat, prevent, or ameliorate organ rejection or graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) and/or conditions associated therewith. Organ rejection occurs by host immune cell destruction of the transplanted tissue through an immune response. Similarly, an immune response is also involved in GVHD, but, in this case, the foreign transplanted immune cells destroy the host tissues. The administration of antibodies of the invention,

that inhibit an immune response, may be an effective therapy in preventing organ rejection or GVHD.

[0435] In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate a disease or disorder diseases associated with increased apoptosis including, but not limited to, AIDS, neurodegenerative disorders (such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Retinitis pigmentosa, Cerebellar degeneration), myelodysplastic syndromes (such as aplastic anemia), ischemic injury (such as that caused by myocardial infarction, stroke and reperfusion injury), toxin-induced liver disease (such as that caused by alcohol), septic shock, cachexia and anorexia. In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate bone marrow failure, for example, aplastic anemia and myelodysplastic syndrome.

[0436] In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate growth, progression, and/or metastases of malignancies and proliferative disorders associated with increased cell survival, or the inhibition of apoptosis. Examples of such disorders, include, but are not limited to, leukemia (*e.g.*, acute leukemia such as acute lymphocytic leukemia and acute myelocytic leukemia), neoplasms, tumors (*e.g.*, fibrosarcoma, myxosarcoma, liposarcoma, chondrosarcoma, osteogenic sarcoma, chordoma, angiosarcoma, endotheliosarcoma, lymphangiosarcoma, lymphangioendotheliosarcoma, synovioma, mesothelioma, Ewing's tumor, leiomyosarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, colon carcinoma, pancreatic cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, sweat gland carcinoma, sebaceous gland carcinoma, papillary carcinoma, papillary adenocarcinomas, cystadenocarcinoma, medullary carcinoma, bronchogenic carcinoma, renal cell carcinoma, hepatoma, bile duct carcinoma, choriocarcinoma, seminoma, embryonal carcinoma, Wilms' tumor, cervical cancer, testicular tumor, lung carcinoma, small cell lung carcinoma, bladder carcinoma, epithelial carcinoma, glioma, astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, craniopharyngioma, ependymoma, pinealoma, hemangioblastoma, acoustic neuroma, oligodendroglioma, meningioma, melanoma, neuroblastoma, and retinoblastoma), heavy chain disease, metastases, or any disease or disorder characterized by uncontrolled cell growth.

[0437] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used to treat or prevent a disorder characterized by hypergammaglobulinemia (e.g., AIDS, autoimmune diseases, and some immunodeficiencies).

[0438] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used to treat or prevent a disorder characterized by deficient serum immunoglobulin production, recurrent infections, and/or immune system dysfunction. Moreover, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be used to treat or prevent infections of the joints, bones, skin, and/or parotid glands, blood-borne infections (e.g., sepsis, meningitis, septic arthritis, and/or osteomyelitis), autoimmune diseases (e.g., those disclosed herein), inflammatory disorders, and malignancies, and/or any disease or disorder or condition associated with these infections, diseases, disorders and/or malignancies) including, but not limited to, COVID, other primary immune deficiencies, HIV disease, CLL, recurrent bronchitis, sinusitis, otitis media, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, hepatitis, meningitis, herpes zoster (e.g., severe herpes zoster), and/or pneumocystis carinii.

[0439] Therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention of the invention thereof, may be used to diagnose, prognose, treat or prevent one or more of the following diseases or disorders, or conditions associated therewith: primary immunodeficiencies, immune-mediated thrombocytopenia, Kawasaki syndrome, bone marrow transplant (e.g., recent bone marrow transplant in adults or children), chronic B-cell lymphocytic leukemia, HIV infection (e.g., adult or pediatric HIV infection), chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, and post-transfusion purpura.

[0440] Additionally, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be used to diagnose, prognose, treat or prevent one or more of the following diseases, disorders, or conditions associated therewith, Guillain-Barre syndrome, anemia (e.g., anemia associated with parvovirus B19, patients with stable multiple myeloma who are at high risk for infection (e.g., recurrent infection), autoimmune hemolytic anemia (e.g., warm-type autoimmune hemolytic anemia), thrombocytopenia (e.g., neonatal thrombocytopenia), and immune-mediated neutropenia), transplantation (e.g., cytomegalovirus (CMV)-negative recipients of CMV-positive organs), hypogammaglobulinemia (e.g., hypogammaglobulinemic neonates with risk factor for

infection or morbidity), epilepsy (e.g., intractable epilepsy), systemic vasculitic syndromes, myasthenia gravis (e.g., decompensation in myasthenia gravis), dermatomyositis, and polymyositis.

[0441] Additional preferred embodiments of the invention include, but are not limited to, the use of therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention in the following applications:

[0442] Administration to an animal (e.g., mouse, rat, rabbit, hamster, guinea pig, pigs, micro-pig, chicken, camel, goat, horse, cow, sheep, dog, cat, non-human primate, and human, most preferably human) to boost the immune system to produce increased quantities of one or more antibodies (e.g., IgG, IgA, IgM, and IgE), to induce higher affinity antibody production (e.g., IgG, IgA, IgM, and IgE), and/or to increase an immune response. In a specific nonexclusive embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to boost the immune system to produce increased quantities of IgG. In another specific nonexclusive embodiment, antibodies of the are administered to boost the immune system to produce increased quantities of IgA. In another specific nonexclusive embodiment antibodies of the invention are administered to boost the immune system to produce increased quantities of IgM.

[0443] Administration to an animal (including, but not limited to, those listed above, and also including transgenic animals) incapable of producing functional endogenous antibody molecules or having an otherwise compromised endogenous immune system, but which is capable of producing human immunoglobulin molecules by means of a reconstituted or partially reconstituted immune system from another animal (see, e.g., published PCT Application Nos. WO98/24893, WO/9634096, WO/9633735, and WO/9110741).

[0444] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a vaccine adjuvant that enhances immune responsiveness to specific antigen. In a specific embodiment, the vaccine is an antibody described herein. In another specific embodiment, the vaccine adjuvant is a polynucleotide described herein (e.g., an antibody polynucleotide genetic vaccine adjuvant). As discussed herein, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be administered using techniques known in the art, including but not limited to, liposomal delivery, recombinant vector delivery, injection of naked DNA, and gene gun delivery.

[0445] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance tumor-specific immune responses.

[0446] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance anti-viral immune responses. Anti-viral immune responses that may be enhanced using the compositions of the invention as an adjuvant, include, but are not limited to, virus and virus associated diseases or symptoms described herein or otherwise known in the art. In specific embodiments, the compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance an immune response to a virus, disease, or symptom selected from the group consisting of: AIDS, meningitis, Dengue, EBV, and hepatitis (e.g., hepatitis B). In another specific embodiment, the compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance an immune response to a virus, disease, or symptom selected from the group consisting of: HIV/AIDS, Respiratory syncytial virus, Dengue, Rotavirus, Japanese B encephalitis, Influenza A and B, Parainfluenza, Measles, Cytomegalovirus, Rabies, Junin, Chikungunya, Rift Valley fever, Herpes simplex, and yellow fever. In another specific embodiment, the compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance an immune response to the HIV gp120 antigen.

[0447] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance anti-bacterial or anti-fungal immune responses. Anti-bacterial or anti-fungal immune responses that may be enhanced using the compositions of the invention as an adjuvant, include bacteria or fungus and bacteria or fungus associated diseases or symptoms described herein or otherwise known in the art. In specific embodiments, the compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance an immune response to a bacteria or fungus, disease, or symptom selected from the group consisting of: tetanus, Diphtheria, botulism, and meningitis type B. In another specific embodiment, the compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance an immune response to a bacteria or fungus, disease, or symptom selected from the group consisting of: *Vibrio cholerae*, *Mycobacterium leprae*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Salmonella paratyphi*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, Group B streptococcus, *Shigella* spp., Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, Enterohemorrhagic *E. coli*, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and *Plasmodium* (malaria).

[0448] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of

the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance anti-parasitic immune responses. Anti-parasitic immune responses that may be enhanced using the compositions of the invention as an adjuvant, include parasite and parasite associated diseases or symptoms described herein or otherwise known in the art. In specific embodiments, the compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance an immune response to a parasite. In another specific embodiment, the compositions of the invention are used as an adjuvant to enhance an immune response to Plasmodium (malaria).

[0449] In a specific embodiment, compositions of the invention may be administered to patients as vaccine adjuvants. In a further specific embodiment, compositions of the invention may be administered as vaccine adjuvants to patients suffering from an immune-deficiency. In a further specific embodiment, compositions of the invention may be administered as vaccine adjuvants to patients suffering from HIV.

[0450] In a specific embodiment, compositions of the invention may be used to increase or enhance antigen-specific antibody responses to standard and experimental vaccines. In a specific embodiment, compositions of the invention may be used to enhance seroconversion in patients treated with standard and experimental vaccines. In another specific embodiment, compositions of the invention may be used to increase the repertoire of antibodies recognizing unique epitopes in response to standard and experimental vaccination.

[0451] In a preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants, and anti-antibody antibodies) increase or enhance antigen-specific antibody responses to standard and experimental vaccines by regulating binding of the soluble form of BLyS to a BLyS receptor (e.g., BCMA and TACI). In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants, and anti-antibody antibodies) increase or enhance antigen-specific antibody responses to standard and experimental vaccines by regulating binding of the soluble form of APRIL to an APRIL receptor (e.g., BCMA and TACI).

[0452] In a preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants, and anti-antibody antibodies) increase or enhance seroconversion in patients treated with standard and experimental vaccines by regulating binding of the soluble form of BLyS to BLyS receptor (e.g., BCMA and TACI). In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants, and

anti-antibody antibodies) increase or enhance seroconversion in patients treated with standard and experimental vaccines by regulating binding of the soluble form of APRIL to an APRIL receptor (e.g., BCMA and TACI).

[0453] In a preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants, and anti-antibody antibodies) increase or enhance the repertoire of antibodies recognizing unique epitopes in response to standard and experimental vaccination by regulating binding of the soluble form of BLyS to a BLyS receptor (e.g., BCMA and TACI). In another preferred embodiment, antibodies of the invention (including antibody fragments and variants, and anti-antibody antibodies) increase or enhance the repertoire of antibodies recognizing unique epitopes in response to standard and experimental vaccination by regulating binding of the soluble form of APRIL to an APRIL receptor (e.g., BCMA and TACI).

[0454] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a stimulator of B cell responsiveness to pathogens.

[0455] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an agent that elevates the immune status of an individual prior to their receipt of immunosuppressive therapies.

[0456] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an agent to induce higher affinity antibodies.

[0457] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an agent to increase serum immunoglobulin concentrations.

[0458] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an agent to accelerate recovery of immunocompromised individuals.

[0459] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an agent to boost immunoresponsiveness among aged populations.

[0460] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an immune system enhancer prior to, during, or after bone marrow transplant and/or other transplants (e.g., allogeneic or xenogeneic organ transplantation). With respect to transplantation, compositions of the invention may be administered prior to, concomitant with, and/or after transplantation. In a specific

embodiment, compositions of the invention are administered after transplantation, prior to the beginning of recovery of T-cell populations. In another specific embodiment, compositions of the invention are first administered after transplantation after the beginning of recovery of T cell populations, but prior to full recovery of B cell populations.

[0461] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an agent to boost immunoresponsiveness among B cell immunodeficient individuals, such as, for example, an individual who has undergone a partial or complete splenectomy. B cell immunodeficiencies that may be ameliorated or treated by administering the antibodies and/or compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)-X linked, SCID-autosomal, adenosine deaminase deficiency (ADA deficiency), X-linked agammaglobulinemia (XLA), Bruton's disease, congenital agammaglobulinemia, X-linked infantile agammaglobulinemia, acquired agammaglobulinemia, adult onset agammaglobulinemia, late-onset agammaglobulinemia, dysgammaglobulinemia, hypogammaglobulinemia, transient hypogammaglobulinemia of infancy, unspecified hypogammaglobulinemia, agammaglobulinemia, common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) (acquired), Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome (WAS), X-linked immunodeficiency with hyper IgM, non X-linked immunodeficiency with hyper IgM, selective IgA deficiency, IgG subclass deficiency (with or without IgA deficiency), antibody deficiency with normal or elevated Igs, immunodeficiency with thymoma, Ig heavy chain deletions, kappa chain deficiency, B cell lymphoproliferative disorder (BLPD), selective IgM immunodeficiency, recessive agammaglobulinemia (Swiss type), reticular dysgenesis, neonatal neutropenia, severe congenital leukopenia, thymic aplasia-aplasia or dysplasia with immunodeficiency, ataxia-telangiectasia, short limbed dwarfism, X-linked lymphoproliferative syndrome (XLP), Nezelof syndrome-combined immunodeficiency with Igs, purine nucleoside phosphorylase deficiency (PNP), MHC Class II deficiency (Bare Lymphocyte Syndrome) and severe combined immunodeficiency.

[0462] In a specific embodiment, antibodies and/or compositions of the invention are administered to treat or ameliorate selective IgA deficiency.

[0463] In another specific embodiment, antibodies and/or compositions of the invention are administered to treat or ameliorate ataxia-telangiectasia.

[0464] In another specific embodiment antibodies and/or compositions of the invention are administered to treat or ameliorate common variable immunodeficiency.

[0465] In another specific embodiment, antibodies and/or compositions of the invention are administered to treat or ameliorate X-linked agammaglobulinemia.

[0466] In another specific embodiment, antibodies and/or compositions of the invention are administered to treat or ameliorate severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).

[0467] In another specific embodiment, antibodies and/or compositions of the invention are administered to treat or ameliorate Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome.

[0468] In another specific embodiment, antibodies and/or compositions of the invention are administered to treat or ameliorate X-linked Ig deficiency with hyper IgM.

[0469] As an agent to boost immunoresponsiveness among individuals having an acquired loss of B cell function. Conditions resulting in an acquired loss of B cell function that may be ameliorated or treated by administering antibodies and/or compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, HIV Infection, AIDS, bone marrow transplant, and B cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

[0470] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an agent to boost immunoresponsiveness among individuals having a temporary immune deficiency. Conditions resulting in a temporary immune deficiency that may be ameliorated or treated by administering antibodies and/or compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, recovery from viral infections (e.g., influenza), conditions associated with malnutrition, recovery from infectious mononucleosis, or conditions associated with stress, recovery from measles, recovery from blood transfusion, recovery from surgery.

[0471] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a regulator of antigen presentation by monocytes, dendritic cells, T cells and/or B-cells. In one embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides enhance antigen presentation or antagonize antigen presentation in vitro or in vivo. Moreover, in related embodiments, this enhancement or antagonization of antigen presentation may be useful in anti-tumor treatment or to modulate the immune system.

[0472] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a mediator of mucosal immune responses. The expression of

BLyS on monocytes, the expression of BLyS receptor on B cells, and the responsiveness of B cells to BLyS suggests that it may be involved in exchange of signals between B cells and monocytes or their differentiated progeny. This activity is in many ways analogous to the CD40-CD154 signalling between B cells and T cells. Anti-BLyS antibodies and compositions of the invention may therefore be good regulators of T cell independent immune responses to environmental pathogens. In particular, the unconventional B cell populations (CD5+) that are associated with mucosal sites and responsible for much of the innate immunity in humans may respond to antibodies or compositions of the invention thereby enhancing or inhibiting individual's immune status.

[0473] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an agent to direct an individual's immune system towards development of a humoral response (i.e. TH2) as opposed to a TH1 cellular response.

[0474] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a means to induce tumor proliferation and thus make it more susceptible to anti-neoplastic agents. For example, multiple myeloma is a slowly dividing disease and is thus refractory to virtually all anti-neoplastic regimens. If these cells were forced to proliferate more rapidly, their susceptibility profile would likely change.

[0475] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a monocyte cell specific binding protein to which specific activators or inhibitors of cell growth may be attached. The result would be to focus the activity of such activators or inhibitors onto normal, diseased, or neoplastic B cell populations.

[0476] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a B cell specific binding protein to which specific activators or inhibitors of cell growth may be attached. The result would be to focus the activity of such activators or inhibitors onto normal, diseased, or neoplastic B cell populations.

[0477] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a means of detecting monocytic cells by virtue of its specificity. This application may require labeling the protein with biotin or other agents (e.g., as described herein) to afford a means of detection.

[0478] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a means of detecting B-lineage cells by virtue of its specificity.

This application may require labeling the protein with biotin or other agents (e.g., as described herein) to afford a means of detection.

[0479] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a stimulator of B cell production in pathologies such as AIDS, chronic lymphocyte disorder and/or Common Variable immunodeficiency.

[0480] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as part of a monocyte selection device the function of which is to isolate monocytes from a heterogeneous mixture of cell types. Antibodies of the invention could be coupled to a solid support to which monocytes would then specifically bind. Unbound cells would be washed out and the bound cells subsequently eluted. A non-limiting use of this selection would be to allow purging of tumor cells from, for example, bone marrow or peripheral blood prior to transplant.

[0481] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as part of a B cell selection device the function of which is to isolate B cells from a heterogeneous mixture of cell types. Antibodies of the invention (that do not inhibit BLyS/BLyS Receptor interaction) binding soluble BLyS could be coupled to a solid support to which B cells would then specifically bind. Unbound cells would be washed out and the bound cells subsequently eluted. A non-limiting use of this selection would be to allow purging of tumor cells from, for example, bone marrow or peripheral blood prior to transplant.

[0482] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a therapy for generation and/or regeneration of lymphoid tissues following surgery, trauma or genetic defect.

[0483] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a gene-based therapy for genetically inherited disorders resulting in immuno-incompetence such as observed among SCID patients.

[0484] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as an antigen for the generation of antibodies to inhibit or enhance BLyS mediated responses.

[0485] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a means of activating monocytes/macrophages to defend against parasitic diseases that effect monocytes such as Leishmania.

[0486] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as pretreatment of bone marrow samples prior to transplant. Such treatment would increase B cell representation and thus accelerate recovery.

[0487] In a specific embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are used as a means of regulating secreted cytokines that are elicited by BLyS and/or BLyS receptor.

[0488] Antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention may be used to modulate IgE concentrations in vitro or in vivo.

[0489] Additionally, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention may be used to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose IgE-mediated allergic reactions. Such allergic reactions include, but are not limited to, asthma, rhinitis, and eczema.

[0490] In a specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention, are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate selective IgA deficiency.

[0491] In another specific embodiment antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate ataxia-telangiectasia.

[0492] In another specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate common variable immunodeficiency.

[0493] In another specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate X-linked agammaglobulinemia.

[0494] In another specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).

[0495] In another specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome.

[0496] In another specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate X-linked Ig deficiency with hyper IgM. In a specific embodiment antibody polypeptides or

polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate X-linked Ig deficiency with hyper IgM.

[0497] In another specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose chronic myelogenous leukemia, acute myelogenous leukemia, leukemia, histiocytic leukemia, monocytic leukemia (e.g., acute monocytic leukemia), leukemic reticulosis, Shilling Type monocytic leukemia, and/or other leukemias derived from monocytes and/or monocytic cells and/or tissues.

[0498] In another specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate monocytic leukemoid reaction, as seen, for example, with tuberculosis.

[0499] In another specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are administered to treat, prevent, diagnose, and/or ameliorate monocytic leukocytosis, monocytic leukopenia, monocytopenia, and/or monocytosis.

[0500] In a specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are used to treat, prevent, detect, and/or diagnose monocyte disorders and/or diseases, and/or conditions associated therewith.

[0501] In a specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are used to treat, prevent, detect, and/or diagnose primary B lymphocyte disorders and/or diseases, and/or conditions associated therewith. In one embodiment, such primary B lymphocyte disorders, diseases, and/or conditions are characterized by a complete or partial loss of humoral immunity. Primary B lymphocyte disorders, diseases, and/or conditions associated therewith that are characterized by a complete or partial loss of humoral immunity and that may be prevented, treated, detected and/or diagnosed with compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, X-Linked Agammaglobulinemia (XLA), severe combined immunodeficiency disease (SCID), and selective IgA deficiency.

[0502] In a preferred embodiment antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are used to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose diseases or disorders affecting or conditions associated with any one or more of the various mucous membranes of the body. Such diseases or disorders include, but are not limited to, for example, mucositis, mucoclasia, mucocolitis, mucocutaneous leishmaniasis (such as, for example, American

leishmaniasis, leishmaniasis americana, nasopharyngeal leishmaniasis, and New World leishmaniasis), mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome (for example, Kawasaki disease), mucoenteritis, mucoepidermoid carcinoma, mucoepidermoid tumor, mucoepithelial dysplasia, mucoid adenocarcinoma, mucoid degeneration, myxoid degeneration; myxomatous degeneration; myxomatosis, mucoid medial degeneration (for example, cystic medial necrosis), mucopolipidosis (including, for example, mucopolipidosis I, mucopolipidosis II, mucopolipidosis III, and mucopolipidosis IV), mucolysis disorders, mucomembranous enteritis, mucoenteritis, mucopolysaccharidosis (such as, for example, type I mucopolysaccharidosis (i.e., Hurler's syndrome), type IS mucopolysaccharidosis (i.e., Scheie's syndrome or type V mucopolysaccharidosis), type II mucopolysaccharidosis (i.e., Hunter's syndrome), type III mucopolysaccharidosis (i.e., Sanfilippo's syndrome), type IV mucopolysaccharidosis (i.e., Morquio's syndrome), type VI mucopolysaccharidosis (i.e., Maroteaux-Lamy syndrome), type VII mucopolysaccharidosis (i.e., mucopolysaccharidosis due to beta-glucuronidase deficiency), and mucosulfatidosis), mucopolysacchariduria, mucopurulent conjunctivitis, mucopus, mucormycosis (i.e., zygomycosis), mucosal disease (i.e., bovine virus diarrhea), mucous colitis (such as, for example, mucocolitis and myxomembranous colitis), and mucoviscidosis (such as, for example, cystic fibrosis, cystic fibrosis of the pancreas, Clarke-Hadfield syndrome, fibrocystic disease of the pancreas, mucoviscidosis, and viscidositis). In a highly preferred embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are used to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose mucositis, especially as associated with chemotherapy.

[0503] In a preferred embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are used to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose diseases or disorders affecting or conditions associated with sinusitis.

[0504] An additional condition, disease or symptom that can be treated, prevented, and/or diagnosed by antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention is osteomyelitis.

[0505] An additional condition, disease or symptom that can be treated, prevented, and/or diagnosed by antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention is endocarditis.

[0506] All of the above described applications as they may apply to veterinary

medicine.

[0507] Antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention may be used to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose diseases and disorders of the pulmonary system (e.g., bronchi such as, for example, sinopulmonary and bronchial infections and conditions associated with such diseases and disorders and other respiratory diseases and disorders. In specific embodiments, such diseases and disorders include, but are not limited to, bronchial adenoma, bronchial asthma, pneumonia (such as, e.g., bronchial pneumonia, bronchopneumonia, and tuberculous bronchopneumonia), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bronchial polyps, bronchiectasia (such as, e.g., bronchiectasia sicca, cylindrical bronchiectasis, and saccular bronchiectasis), bronchiolar adenocarcinoma, bronchiolar carcinoma, bronchiolitis (such as, e.g., exudative bronchiolitis, bronchiolitis fibrosa obliterans, and proliferative bronchiolitis), bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma, bronchitic asthma, bronchitis (such as, e.g., asthmatic bronchitis, Castellani's bronchitis, chronic bronchitis, croupous bronchitis, fibrinous bronchitis, hemorrhagic bronchitis, infectious avian bronchitis, obliterative bronchitis, plastic bronchitis, pseudomembranous bronchitis, putrid bronchitis, and verminous bronchitis), bronchocentric granulomatosis, bronchoedema, bronchoesophageal fistula, bronchogenic carcinoma, bronchogenic cyst, broncholithiasis, bronchomalacia, bronchomycosis (such as, e.g., bronchopulmonary aspergillosis), bronchopulmonary spirochetosis, hemorrhagic bronchitis, bronchorrhea, bronchospasm, bronchostaxis, bronchostenosis, Biot's respiration, bronchial respiration, Kussmaul respiration, Kussmaul-Kien respiration, respiratory acidosis, respiratory alkalosis, respiratory distress syndrome of the newborn, respiratory insufficiency, respiratory scleroma, respiratory syncytial virus, and the like.

[0508] In a specific embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are used to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

[0509] In another embodiment, antibody polypeptides or polynucleotides of the invention are used to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose fibroses and conditions associated with fibroses, including, but not limited to, cystic fibrosis (including such fibroses as cystic fibrosis of the pancreas, Clarke-Hadfield syndrome, fibrocystic disease of the pancreas, mucoviscidosis, and viscidosis), endomyocardial fibrosis, idiopathic retroperitoneal fibrosis, leptomenigeal fibrosis, mediastinal fibrosis, nodular

subepidermal fibrosis, pericentral fibrosis, perimuscular fibrosis, pipestem fibrosis, replacement fibrosis, subadventitial fibrosis, and Symmers' clay pipestem fibrosis.

[0510] In another embodiment, therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are administered to an animal to treat, prevent or ameliorate infectious diseases. Infectious diseases include diseases associated with yeast, fungal, viral and bacterial infections. Viruses causing viral infections which can be treated or prevented in accordance with this invention include, but are not limited to, retroviruses (e.g., human T-cell lymphotropic virus (HTLV) types I and II and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)), herpes viruses (e.g., herpes simplex virus (HSV) types I and II, Epstein-Barr virus, HHV6-HHV8, and cytomegalovirus), arenaviruses (e.g., lassa fever virus), paramyxoviruses (e.g., morbillivirus virus, human respiratory syncytial virus, mumps, and pneumovirus), adenoviruses, bunyaviruses (e.g., hantavirus), cornaviruses, filoviruses (e.g., Ebola virus), flaviviruses (e.g., hepatitis C virus (HCV), yellow fever virus, and Japanese encephalitis virus), hepadnaviruses (e.g., hepatitis B viruses (HBV)), orthomyoviruses (e.g., influenza viruses A, B and C), papovaviruses (e.g., papillomaviruses), picornaviruses (e.g., rhinoviruses, enteroviruses and hepatitis A viruses), poxviruses, reoviruses (e.g., rotaviruses), togaviruses (e.g., rubella virus), rhabdoviruses (e.g., rabies virus). Microbial pathogens causing bacterial infections include, but are not limited to, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria gonorrhoea*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, *Clostridium botulinum*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Clostridium tetani*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella ozaenae*, *Klebsiella rhinoscleromatis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Vibrio cholerae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Campylobacter* (*Vibrio*) *fetus*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Edwardsiella tarda*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Shigella flexneri*, *Shigella sonnei*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Treponema pallidum*, *Treponema pertenue*, *Treponema carateum*, *Borrelia vincentii*, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, *Leptospira icterohemorrhagiae*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Pneumocystis carinii*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Brucella abortus*, *Brucella suis*, *Brucella melitensis*, *Mycoplasma spp.*, *Rickettsia prowazeki*, *Rickettsia tsutsugumushi*, *Chlamydia spp.*, and *Helicobacter pylori*.

Gene Therapy

[0511] In a specific embodiment, nucleic acids comprising sequences encoding antibodies or functional derivatives thereof, are administered to treat, inhibit or prevent a disease or disorder associated with aberrant expression and/or activity of BLyS and/or its receptor, by way of gene therapy. Gene therapy refers to therapy performed by the administration to a subject of an expressed or expressible nucleic acid. In this embodiment of the invention, the nucleic acids produce their encoded protein that mediates a therapeutic effect.

[0512] Any of the methods for gene therapy available in the art can be used according to the present invention. Exemplary methods are described below.

[0513] For general reviews of the methods of gene therapy, see Goldspiel *et al.*, Clinical Pharmacy 12:488-505 (1993); Wu and Wu, Biotherapy 3:87-95 (1991); Tolstoshev, Ann. Rev. Pharmacol. Toxicol. 32:573-596 (1993); Mulligan, Science 260:926-932 (1993); and Morgan and Anderson, Ann. Rev. Biochem. 62:191-217 (1993); May, TIBTECH 11(5):155-215 (1993). Methods commonly known in the art of recombinant DNA technology which can be used are described in Ausubel *et al.* (eds.), Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, NY (1993); and Kriegler, Gene Transfer and Expression, A Laboratory Manual, Stockton Press, NY (1990).

[0514] In a preferred aspect, a composition of the invention comprises, or alternatively consists of, nucleic acids encoding an antibody, said nucleic acids being part of an expression vector that expresses the antibody or fragments or chimeric proteins or heavy or light chains thereof in a suitable host. In particular, such nucleic acids have promoters, preferably heterologous promoters, operably linked to the antibody coding region, said promoter being inducible or constitutive, and, optionally, tissue-specific. In another particular embodiment, nucleic acid molecules are used in which the antibody coding sequences and any other desired sequences are flanked by regions that promote homologous recombination at a desired site in the genome, thus providing for intrachromosomal expression of the antibody encoding nucleic acids (Koller and Smithies, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86:8932-8935 (1989); Zijlstra *et al.*, Nature 342:435-438 (1989). In specific embodiments, the expressed antibody molecule is an scFv;

alternatively, the nucleic acid sequences include sequences encoding both the heavy and light chains, or fragments or variants thereof, of an antibody.

[0515] Delivery of the nucleic acids into a patient may be either direct, in which case the patient is directly exposed to the nucleic acid or nucleic acid- carrying vectors, or indirect, in which case, cells are first transformed with the nucleic acids *in vitro*, then transplanted into the patient. These two approaches are known, respectively, as *in vivo* or *ex vivo* gene therapy.

[0516] In a specific embodiment, the nucleic acid sequences are directly administered *in vivo*, where it is expressed to produce the encoded product. This can be accomplished by any of numerous methods known in the art, *e.g.*, by constructing them as part of an appropriate nucleic acid expression vector and administering it so that they become intracellular, *e.g.*, by infection using defective or attenuated retrovirals or other viral vectors (see U.S. Patent No. 4,980,286), or by direct injection of naked DNA, or by use of microparticle bombardment (*e.g.*, a gene gun; Biolistic, Dupont), or coating with lipids or cell-surface receptors or transfecting agents, encapsulation in liposomes, microparticles, or microcapsules, or by administering them in linkage to a peptide which is known to enter the nucleus, by administering it in linkage to a ligand subject to receptor-mediated endocytosis (see, *e.g.*, Wu and Wu, J. Biol. Chem. 262:4429-4432 (1987)) (which can be used to target cell types specifically expressing the receptors), etc. In another embodiment, nucleic acid-ligand complexes can be formed in which the ligand comprises a fusogenic viral peptide to disrupt endosomes, allowing the nucleic acid to avoid lysosomal degradation. In yet another embodiment, the nucleic acid can be targeted *in vivo* for cell specific uptake and expression, by targeting a specific receptor (see, *e.g.*, PCT Publications WO 92/06 180; WO 92/22635; W092/203 16; W093/14188, WO 93/20221). Alternatively, the nucleic acid can be introduced intracellularly and incorporated within host cell DNA for expression, by homologous recombination (Koller and Smithies, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86:8932-8935 (1989); Zijlstra *et al.*, Nature 342:435-438 (1989)).

[0517] In a specific embodiment, viral vectors that contains nucleic acid sequences encoding an antibody of the invention or fragments or variants thereof are used. For example, a retroviral vector can be used (see Miller *et al.*, Meth. Enzymol. 217:581-599 (1993)). These retroviral vectors contain the components necessary for the correct

packaging of the viral genome and integration into the host cell DNA. The nucleic acid sequences encoding the antibody to be used in gene therapy are cloned into one or more vectors, which facilitates delivery of the gene into a patient. More detail about retroviral vectors can be found in Boesen *et al.*, *Biotherapy* 6:29 1-302 (1994), which describes the use of a retroviral vector to deliver the *mdr 1* gene to hematopoietic stem cells in order to make the stem cells more resistant to chemotherapy. Other references illustrating the use of retroviral vectors in gene therapy are: Clowes *et al.*, *J. Clin. Invest.* 93:644-651(1994); Klein *et al.*, *Blood* 83:1467-1473 (1994); Salmons and Gunzberg, *Human Gene Therapy* 4:129-141 (1993); and Grossman and Wilson, *Curr. Opin. in Genetics and Devel.* 3:110-114 (1993).

[0518] Adenoviruses are other viral vectors that can be used in gene therapy.

Adenoviruses are especially attractive vehicles for delivering genes to respiratory epithelia. Adenoviruses naturally infect respiratory epithelia where they cause a mild disease. Other targets for adenovirus-based delivery systems are liver, the central nervous system, endothelial cells, and muscle. Adenoviruses have the advantage of being capable of infecting non-dividing cells. Kozarsky and Wilson, *Current Opinion in Genetics and Development* 3:499-503 (1993) present a review of adenovirus-based gene therapy. Bout *et al.*, *Human Gene Therapy* 5:3-10 (1994) demonstrated the use of adenovirus vectors to transfer genes to the respiratory epithelia of rhesus monkeys. Other instances of the use of adenoviruses in gene therapy can be found in Rosenfeld *et al.*, *Science* 252:431-434 (1991); Rosenfeld *et al.*, *Cell* 68:143-155 (1992); Mastrangeli *et al.*, *J. Clin. Invest.* 91:225-234 (1993); PCT Publication W094/12649; and Wang, *et al.*, *Gene Therapy* 2:775-783 (1995). In a preferred embodiment, adenovirus vectors are used.

[0519] Adeno-associated virus (AAV) has also been proposed for use in gene therapy (Walsh *et al.*, *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.* 204:289-300 (1993); U.S. Patent No. 5,436,146).

[0520] Another approach to gene therapy involves transferring a gene to cells in tissue culture by such methods as electroporation, lipofection, calcium phosphate mediated transfection, or viral infection. Usually, the method of transfer includes the transfer of a selectable marker to the cells. The cells are then placed under selection to isolate those cells that have taken up and are expressing the transferred gene. Those cells are then delivered to a patient.

[0521] In this embodiment, the nucleic acid is introduced into a cell prior to administration *in vivo* of the resulting recombinant cell. Such introduction can be carried out by any method known in the art, including but not limited to transfection, electroporation, microinjection, infection with a viral or bacteriophage vector containing the nucleic acid sequences, cell fusion, chromosome-mediated gene transfer, microcell-mediated gene transfer, spheroplast fusion, etc. Numerous techniques are known in the art for the introduction of foreign genes into cells (see, *e.g.*, Loeffler and Behr, *Meth. Enzymol.* 217:599-618 (1993); Cohen *et al.*, *Meth. Enzymol.* 217:618-644 (1993); Clin. Pharma. Ther. 29:69-92m (1985)) and may be used in accordance with the present invention, provided that the necessary developmental and physiological functions of the recipient cells are not disrupted. The technique should provide for the stable transfer of the nucleic acid to the cell, so that the nucleic acid is expressible by the cell and preferably heritable and expressible by its cell progeny.

[0522] The resulting recombinant cells can be delivered to a patient by various methods known in the art. Recombinant blood cells (*e.g.*, hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells) are preferably administered intravenously. The amount of cells envisioned for use depends on the desired effect, patient state, etc., and can be determined by one skilled in the art.

[0523] Cells into which a nucleic acid can be introduced for purposes of gene therapy encompass any desired, available cell type, and include but are not limited to epithelial cells, endothelial cells, keratinocytes, fibroblasts, muscle cells, hepatocytes; blood cells such as T lymphocytes, B lymphocytes, monocytes, macrophages, neutrophils, eosinophils, megakaryocytes, granulocytes; various stem or progenitor cells, in particular hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells, *e.g.*, as obtained from bone marrow, umbilical cord blood, peripheral blood, fetal liver, etc.

[0524] In a preferred embodiment, the cell used for gene therapy is autologous to the patient.

[0525] In an embodiment in which recombinant cells are used in gene therapy, nucleic acid sequences encoding an antibody or fragment thereof are introduced into the cells such that they are expressible by the cells or their progeny, and the recombinant cells are then administered *in vivo* for therapeutic effect. In a specific embodiment, stem or progenitor cells are used. Any stem and/or progenitor cells which can be isolated and

maintained *in vitro* can potentially be used in accordance with this embodiment of the present invention (see e.g. PCT Publication WO 94/08598; Stemple and Anderson, Cell 71:973-985 (1992); Rheinwald, Meth. Cell Bio. 21A:229 (1980); and Pittelkow and Scott, Mayo Clinic Proc. 61:771 (1986)).

[0526] In a specific embodiment, the nucleic acid to be introduced for purposes of gene therapy comprises an inducible promoter operably linked to the coding region, such that expression of the nucleic acid is controllable by controlling the presence or absence of the appropriate inducer of transcription.

Demonstration of Therapeutic or Prophylactic Utility of a Composition

[0527] The compounds of the invention are preferably tested *in vitro*, and then *in vivo* for the desired therapeutic or prophylactic activity, prior to use in humans. For example, *in vitro* assays which can be used to determine whether administration of a specific antibody or composition of the present invention is indicated, include *in vitro* cell culture assays in which a patient tissue sample is grown in culture, and exposed to or otherwise administered an antibody or composition of the present invention, and the effect of such an antibody or composition of the present invention upon the tissue sample is observed. In various specific embodiments, *in vitro* assays can be carried out with representative cells of cell types involved in a patient's disorder, to determine if an antibody or composition of the present invention has a desired effect upon such cell types. Preferably, the antibodies or compositions of the invention are also tested in *in vitro* assays and animal model systems prior to administration to humans.

[0528] Antibodies or compositions of the present invention for use in therapy can be tested for their toxicity in suitable animal model systems, including but not limited to rats, mice, chicken, cows, monkeys, and rabbits. For *in vivo* testing of an antibody or composition's toxicity any animal model system known in the art may be used.

[0529] Efficacy in treating or preventing viral infection may be demonstrated by detecting the ability of an antibody or composition of the invention to inhibit the replication of the virus, to inhibit transmission or prevent the virus from establishing itself in its host, or to prevent, ameliorate or alleviate the symptoms of disease a progression. The treatment is considered therapeutic if there is, for example, a reduction in viral load,

amelioration of one or more symptoms, or a decrease in mortality and/or morbidity following administration of an antibody or composition of the invention.

[0530] Antibodies or compositions of the invention can be tested for the ability to induce the expression of cytokines such as IFN- γ , by contacting cells, preferably human cells, with an antibody or composition of the invention or a control antibody or control composition and determining the ability of the antibody or composition of the invention to induce one or more cytokines. Techniques known to those of skill in the art can be used to measure the level of expression of cytokines. For example, the level of expression of cytokines can be measured by analyzing the level of RNA of cytokines by, for example, RT-PCR and Northern blot analysis, and by analyzing the level of cytokines by, for example, immunoprecipitation followed by western blot analysis and ELISA. In a preferred embodiment, a compound of the invention is tested for its ability to induce the expression of IFN- γ

[0531] Antibodies or compositions of the invention can be tested for their ability to modulate the biological activity of immune cells by contacting immune cells, preferably human immune cells (e.g., T-cells, B-cells, and Natural Killer cells), with an antibody or composition of the invention or a control compound and determining the ability of the antibody or composition of the invention to modulate (i.e., increase or decrease) the biological activity of immune cells. The ability of an antibody or composition of the invention to modulate the biological activity of immune cells can be assessed by detecting the expression of antigens, detecting the proliferation of immune cells (i.e., B-cell proliferation), detecting the activation of signaling molecules, detecting the effector function of immune cells, or detecting the differentiation of immune cells. Techniques known to those of skill in the art can be used for measuring these activities. For example, cellular proliferation can be assayed by ^3H -thymidine incorporation assays and trypan blue cell counts. Antigen expression can be assayed, for example, by immunoassays including, but not limited to, competitive and non-competitive assay systems using techniques such as western blots, immunohistochemistry radioimmunoassays, ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay), "sandwich" immunoassays, immunoprecipitation assays, precipitin reactions, gel diffusion precipitin reactions, immunodiffusion assays, agglutination assays, complement-fixation assays, immunoradiometric assays, fluorescent immunoassays, protein A immunoassays and FACS analysis. The activation of signaling

molecules can be assayed, for example, by kinase assays and electrophoretic shift assays (EMSAs). In a preferred embodiment, the ability of an antibody or composition of the invention to induce B-cell proliferation is measured. In another preferred embodiment, the ability of an antibody or composition of the invention to modulate immunoglobulin expression is measured.

[0532] Antibodies or compositions of the invention can be tested for their ability to reduce tumor formation in *in vitro*, *ex vivo* and *in vivo* assays. Antibodies or compositions of the invention can also be tested for their ability to inhibit viral replication or reduce viral load in *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays. Antibodies or compositions of the invention can also be tested for their ability to reduce bacterial numbers in *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays known to those of skill in the art. Antibodies or compositions of the invention can also be tested for their ability to alleviate one or more symptoms associated with cancer, an immune disorder (*e.g.*, an inflammatory disease), a neurological disorder or an infectious disease. Antibodies or compositions of the invention can also be tested for their ability to decrease the time course of the infectious disease. Further, antibodies or compositions of the invention can be tested for their ability to increase the survival period of animals suffering from disease or disorder, including cancer, an immune disorder or an infectious disease. Techniques known to those of skill in the art can be used to analyze the function of the antibodies or compositions of the invention *in vivo*.

Therapeutic/Prophylactic Compositions and Administration

[0533] The invention provides methods of treatment, inhibition and prophylaxis by administration to a subject of an effective amount of antibody (or fragment or variant thereof) or pharmaceutical composition of the invention, preferably an antibody of the invention. In a preferred aspect, an antibody or fragment or variant thereof is substantially purified (*i.e.*, substantially free from substances that limit its effect or produce undesired side-effects). The subject is preferably an animal, including but not limited to, animals such as cows, pigs, horses, chickens, cats, dogs, etc., and is preferably a mammal, and most preferably a human.

[0534] Formulations and methods of administration that can be employed when the compound comprises a nucleic acid or an immunoglobulin are described above;

additional appropriate formulations and routes of administration can be selected from among those described herein below.

[0535] Various delivery systems are known and can be used to administer antibody or fragment or variant thereof of the invention, *e.g.*, encapsulation in liposomes, microparticles, microcapsules, recombinant cells capable of expressing the antibody or antibody fragment, receptor-mediated endocytosis (see, *e.g.*, Wu and Wu, *J. Biol. Chem.* 262:4429-4432 (1987)), construction of a nucleic acid as part of a retroviral or other vector, etc. Methods of introduction include, but are not limited to, intradermal, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intravenous, subcutaneous, intranasal, epidural, and oral routes. The compositions may be administered by any convenient route, for example by infusion or bolus injection, by absorption through epithelial or mucocutaneous linings (*e.g.*, oral mucosa, rectal and intestinal mucosa, etc.) and may be administered together with other biologically active agents. Administration can be systemic or local. In addition, it may be desirable to introduce the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention into the central nervous system by any suitable route, including intraventricular and intrathecal injection; intraventricular injection may be facilitated by an intraventricular catheter, for example, attached to a reservoir, such as an Ommaya reservoir. Pulmonary administration can also be employed, *e.g.*, by use of an inhaler or nebulizer, and formulation with an aerosolizing agent.

[0536] In a specific embodiment, it may be desirable to administer the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention locally to the area in need of treatment; this may be achieved by, for example, and not by way of limitation, local infusion during surgery, topical application, *e.g.*, in conjunction with a wound dressing after surgery, by injection, by means of a catheter, by means of a suppository, or by means of an implant, said implant being of a porous, non-porous, or gelatinous material, including membranes, such as sialastic membranes, or fibers. Preferably, when administering a protein, including an antibody, of the invention, care must be taken to use materials to which the protein does not absorb.

[0537] In another embodiment, the composition can be delivered in a vesicle, in particular a liposome (see Langer, *Science* 249:1527-1533 (1990); Treat *et al.*, in *Liposomes in the Therapy of Infectious Disease and Cancer*, Lopez-Berestein and Fidler

(eds.), Liss, New York, pp. 353- 365 (1989); Lopez-Berestein, *ibid.*, pp. 3 17-327; see generally *ibid.*).

[0538] In yet another embodiment, the composition can be delivered in a controlled release system. In one embodiment, a pump may be used (see Langer, *supra*; Sefton, *CRC Crit. Ref. Biomed. Eng.* 14:20 1 (1987); Buchwald *et al.*, *Surgery* 88:507 (1980); Saudek *et al.*, *N. Engl. J. Med.* 321:574 (1989)). In another embodiment, polymeric materials can be used (see *Medical Applications of Controlled Release*, Langer and Wise (eds.), CRC Pres., Boca Raton, Florida (1974); *Controlled Drug Bioavailability, Drug Product Design and Performance*, Smolen and Ball (eds.), Wiley, New York (1984); Ranger and Peppas, J., *Macromol. Sci. Rev. Macromol. Chem.* 23:61 (1983); see also Levy *et al.*, *Science* 228:190 (1985); During *et al.*, *Ann. Neurol.* 25:35 1 (1989); Howard *et al.*, *J. Neurosurg.* 7 1:105 (1989)). In yet another embodiment, a controlled release system can be placed in proximity of the therapeutic target, *i.e.*, the brain, thus requiring only a fraction of the systemic dose (see, *e.g.*, Goodson, in *Medical Applications of Controlled Release*, *supra*, vol. 2, pp. 115-138 (1984)).

[0539] Other controlled release systems are discussed in the review by Langer (*Science* 249:1527-1533 (1990)).

[0540] In a specific embodiment where the composition of the invention is a nucleic acid encoding a protein, the nucleic acid can be administered *in vivo* to promote expression of its encoded protein, by constructing it as part of an appropriate nucleic acid expression vector and administering it so that it becomes intracellular, *e.g.*, by use of a retroviral vector (see U.S. Patent No. 4,980,286), or by direct injection, or by use of microparticle bombardment (*e.g.*, a gene gun; Biolistic, Dupont), or coating with lipids or cell-surface receptors or transfecting agents, or by administering it in linkage to a homeobox- like peptide which is known to enter the nucleus (see *e.g.*, Joliot *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:1864-1868 (1991)), etc. Alternatively, a nucleic acid can be introduced intracellularly and incorporated within host cell DNA for expression, by homologous recombination.

[0541] The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions. Such compositions comprise a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody or a fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In a specific embodiment, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable" means approved by a regulatory agency of the Federal or a

state government or listed in the U.S. Pharmacopeia or other generally recognized pharmacopeia for use in animals, and more particularly in humans. The term "carrier" refers to a diluent, adjuvant, excipient, or vehicle with which the therapeutic is administered. Such pharmaceutical carriers can be sterile liquids, such as water and oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin, such as peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil and the like. Water is a preferred carrier when the pharmaceutical composition is administered intravenously. Saline solutions and aqueous dextrose and glycerol solutions can also be employed as liquid carriers, particularly for injectable solutions. Suitable pharmaceutical excipients include starch, glucose, lactose, sucrose, gelatin, malt, rice, flour, chalk, silica gel, sodium stearate, glycerol monostearate, talc, sodium chloride, dried skim milk, glycerol, propylene, glycol, water, ethanol and the like. The composition, if desired, can also contain minor amounts of wetting or emulsifying agents, or pH buffering agents. These compositions can take the form of solutions, suspensions, emulsion, tablets, pills, capsules, powders, sustained-release formulations and the like. The composition can be formulated as a suppository, with traditional binders and carriers such as triglycerides. Oral formulation can include standard carriers such as pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, cellulose, magnesium carbonate, etc. Examples of suitable pharmaceutical carriers are described in "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences" by E.W. Martin. Such compositions will contain a therapeutically effective amount of the antibody or fragment thereof, preferably in purified form, together with a suitable amount of carrier so as to provide the form for proper administration to the patient. The formulation should suit the mode of administration.

[0542] In a preferred embodiment, the composition is formulated in accordance with routine procedures as a pharmaceutical composition adapted for intravenous administration to human beings. Typically, compositions for intravenous administration are solutions in sterile isotonic aqueous buffer. Where necessary, the composition may also include a solubilizing agent and a local anesthetic such as lignocaine to ease pain at the site of the injection. Generally, the ingredients are supplied either separately or mixed together in unit dosage form, for example, as a dry lyophilized powder or water free concentrate in a hermetically sealed container such as an ampoule or sachette indicating the quantity of active agent. Where the composition is to be administered by infusion, it

can be dispensed with an infusion bottle containing sterile pharmaceutical grade water or saline. Where the composition is administered by injection, an ampoule of sterile water for injection or saline can be provided so that the ingredients may be mixed prior to administration.

[0543] The compositions of the invention can be formulated as neutral or salt forms. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts include those formed with anions such as those derived from hydrochloric, phosphoric, acetic, oxalic, tartaric acids, etc., and those formed with cations such as those derived from sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, ferric hydroxides, isopropylamine, triethylamine, 2-ethylamino ethanol, histidine, procaine, etc.

[0544] The amount of the composition of the invention which will be effective in the treatment, inhibition and prevention of a disease or disorder associated with aberrant expression and/or activity of a polypeptide of the invention can be determined by standard clinical techniques. In addition, *in vitro* assays may optionally be employed to help identify optimal dosage ranges. The precise dose to be employed in the formulation will also depend on the route of administration, and the seriousness of the disease or disorder, and should be decided according to the judgment of the practitioner and each patient's circumstances. Effective doses may be extrapolated from dose-response curves derived from *in vitro* or animal model test systems.

[0545] For antibodies, the dosage administered to a patient is typically 0.1 mg/kg to 100 mg/kg of the patient's body weight. Preferably, the dosage administered to a patient is between 0.1 mg/kg and 20 mg/kg of the patient's body weight, more preferably 1 mg/kg to 10 mg/kg of the patient's body weight. Generally, human antibodies have a longer half-life within the human body than antibodies from other species due to the immune response to the foreign polypeptides. Thus, lower dosages of human antibodies and less frequent administration is often possible. Further, the dosage and frequency of administration of therapeutic or pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be reduced by enhancing uptake and tissue penetration (e.g., into the brain) of the antibodies by modifications such as, for example, lipidation.

[0546] The antibodies and antibody compositions of the invention may be administered alone or in combination with other adjuvants. Adjuvants that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, alum, alum plus deoxycholate (ImmunoAg), MTP-PE (Biocine Corp.),

B streptococci. In another embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are used in combination with PNEUMOVAX-23™ to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose infection and/or any disease, disorder, and/or condition associated with *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

[0548] The antibody and antibody compositions of the invention may be administered alone or in combination with other therapeutic agents, including but not limited to, chemotherapeutic agents, antibiotics, antivirals, steroidal and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, conventional immunotherapeutic agents and cytokines. Combinations may be administered either concomitantly, e.g., as an admixture, separately but simultaneously or concurrently; or sequentially. This includes presentations in which the combined agents are administered together as a therapeutic mixture, and also procedures in which the combined agents are administered separately but simultaneously, e.g., as through separate intravenous lines into the same individual. Administration "in combination" further includes the separate administration of one of the compounds or agents given first, followed by the second.

[0549] In one embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with other members of the TNF family. TNF, TNF-related or TNF-like molecules that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, soluble forms of TNF-alpha, lymphotoxin-alpha (LT-alpha, also known as TNF-beta), LT-beta (found in complex heterotrimer LT-alpha2-beta), OPGL, FasL, CD27L, CD30L, CD40L, 4-1BBL, DcR3, OX40L, TNF-gamma (International Publication No. WO 96/14328), TRAIL, AIM-II (International Publication No. WO 97/34911), APRIL (J. Exp. Med. 188(6):1185-1190 (1998)), endokine-alpha (International Publication No. WO 98/07880), Neutrokine-alpha (International Application Publication No. WO 98/18921), OPG, OX40, and nerve growth factor (NGF), and soluble forms of Fas, CD30, CD27, CD40 and 4-1BB, TR2 (International Publication No. WO 96/34095), DR3 (International Publication No. WO 97/33904), DR4 (International Publication No. WO 98/32856), TR5 (International Publication No. WO 98/30693), TR6 (International Publication No. WO 98/30694), TR7 (International Publication No. WO 98/41629), TRANK, TR9 (International Publication No. WO 98/56892), 312C2 (International Publication No. WO 98/06842), and TR12, and soluble forms CD154, CD70, and CD153.

[0550] In a preferred embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with CD40 ligand (CD40L), a soluble form of CD40L (e.g., AVREND™), biologically active fragments, variants, or derivatives of CD40L, anti-CD40L antibodies (e.g., agonistic or antagonistic antibodies), and/or anti-CD40 antibodies (e.g., agonistic or antagonistic antibodies).

[0551] In an additional embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered alone or in combination with an anti-angiogenic agent(s). Anti-angiogenic agents that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, Angiostatin (Entremed, Rockville, MD), Troponin-1 (Boston Life Sciences, Boston, MA), anti-Invasive Factor, retinoic acid and derivatives thereof, paclitaxel (Taxol), Suramin, Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteinase-1, Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteinase-2, VEGI, Plasminogen Activator Inhibitor-1, Plasminogen Activator Inhibitor-2, and various forms of the lighter "d group" transition metals.

[0552] Lighter "d group" transition metals include, for example, vanadium, molybdenum, tungsten, titanium, niobium, and tantalum species. Such transition metal species may form transition metal complexes. Suitable complexes of the above-mentioned transition metal species include oxo transition metal complexes.

[0553] Representative examples of vanadium complexes include oxo vanadium complexes such as vanadate and vanadyl complexes. Suitable vanadate complexes include metavanadate and orthovanadate complexes such as, for example, ammonium metavanadate, sodium metavanadate, and sodium orthovanadate. Suitable vanadyl complexes include, for example, vanadyl acetylacetonate and vanadyl sulfate including vanadyl sulfate hydrates such as vanadyl sulfate mono- and trihydrates.

[0554] Representative examples of tungsten and molybdenum complexes also include oxo complexes. Suitable oxo tungsten complexes include tungstate and tungsten oxide complexes. Suitable tungstate complexes include ammonium tungstate, calcium tungstate, sodium tungstate dihydrate, and tungstic acid. Suitable tungsten oxides include tungsten (IV) oxide and tungsten (VI) oxide. Suitable oxo molybdenum complexes include molybdate, molybdenum oxide, and molybdenyl complexes. Suitable molybdate complexes include ammonium molybdate and its hydrates, sodium molybdate and its hydrates, and potassium molybdate and its hydrates. Suitable molybdenum oxides include

molybdenum (VI) oxide, molybdenum (VI) oxide, and molybdic acid. Suitable molybdenyl complexes include, for example, molybdenyl acetylacetonate. Other suitable tungsten and molybdenum complexes include hydroxo derivatives derived from, for example, glycerol, tartaric acid, and sugars.

[0555] A wide variety of other anti-angiogenic factors may also be utilized within the context of the present invention. Representative examples include, but are not limited to, platelet factor 4; protamine sulphate; sulphated chitin derivatives (prepared from queen crab shells), (Murata et al., *Cancer Res.* 51:22-26, 1991); Sulphated Polysaccharide Peptidoglycan Complex (SP- PG) (the function of this compound may be enhanced by the presence of steroids such as estrogen, and tamoxifen citrate); Staurosporine; modulators of matrix metabolism, including for example, proline analogs, cishydroxyproline, d,L-3,4-dehydropoline, Thiaproline, alpha,alpha-dipyridyl, aminopropionitrile fumarate; 4-propyl-5-(4-pyridinyl)-2(3H)-oxazolone; Methotrexate; Mitoxantrone; Heparin; Interferons; 2 Macroglobulin-serum; ChIMP-3 (Pavloff et al., *J. Bio. Chem.* 267:17321-17326, 1992); Chymostatin (Tomkinson et al., *Biochem J.* 286:475-480, 1992); Cyclodextrin Tetradecasulfate; Eponemycin; Camptothecin; Fumagillin (Ingber et al., *Nature* 348:555-557, 1990); Gold Sodium Thiomalate ("GST"; Matsubara and Ziff, *J. Clin. Invest.* 79:1440-1446, 1987); anticollagenase-serum; alpha2-antiplasmin (Holmes et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 262(4):1659-1664, 1987); Bisantrene (National Cancer Institute); Lobenzarit disodium (N-(2)-carboxyphenyl-4- chloroanthronilic acid disodium or "CCA"; (Takeuchi et al., *Agents Actions* 36:312-316, 1992); and metalloproteinase inhibitors such as BB94.

[0556] Additional anti-angiogenic factors that may also be utilized within the context of the present invention include Thalidomide, (Celgene, Warren, NJ); Angiostatic steroid; AGM-1470 (H. Brem and J. Folkman *J Pediatr. Surg.* 28:445-51 (1993)); an integrin alpha v beta 3 antagonist (C. Storgard et al., *J Clin. Invest.* 103:47-54 (1999)); carboxynaminolimidazole; Carboxyamidotriazole (CAI) (National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD); Conbretastatin A-4 (CA4P) (OXiGENE, Boston, MA); Squalamine (Magainin Pharmaceuticals, Plymouth Meeting, PA); TNP-470, (Tap Pharmaceuticals, Deerfield, IL); ZD-0101 AstraZeneca (London, UK); APRA (CT2584); Benefin, Byrostatin-1 (SC339555); CGP-41251 (PKC 412); CM101; Dextrazoxane (ICRF187); DMXAA; Endostatin; Flavopridiol; Genestein; GTE; ImmTher; Iressa (ZD1839);

Octreotide (Somatostatin); Panretin; Penacillamine; Photopoint; PI-88; Prinomastat (AG-3340) Purytin; Suradista (FCE26644); Tamoxifen (Nolvadex); Tazarotene; Tetrathiomolybdate; Xeloda (Capecitabine); and 5-Fluorouracil.

[0557] Anti-angiogenic agents that may be administered in combination with the compounds of the invention may work through a variety of mechanisms including, but not limited to, inhibiting proteolysis of the extracellular matrix, blocking the function of endothelial cell-extracellular matrix adhesion molecules, by antagonizing the function of angiogenesis inducers such as growth factors, and inhibiting integrin receptors expressed on proliferating endothelial cells. Examples of anti-angiogenic inhibitors that interfere with extracellular matrix proteolysis and which may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, AG-3340 (Agouron, La Jolla, CA), BAY-12-9566 (Bayer, West Haven, CT), BMS-275291 (Bristol Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ), CGS-27032A (Novartis, East Hanover, NJ), Marimastat (British Biotech, Oxford, UK), and Metastat (Aeterna, St-Foy, Quebec). Examples of anti-angiogenic inhibitors that act by blocking the function of endothelial cell-extracellular matrix adhesion molecules and which may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, EMD-121974 (Merck KGaA Darmstadt, Germany) and Vitaxin (Ixsys, La Jolla, CA/Medimmune, Gaithersburg, MD). Examples of anti-angiogenic agents that act by directly antagonizing or inhibiting angiogenesis inducers and which may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, Angiozyme (Ribozyme, Boulder, CO), Anti-VEGF antibody (Genentech, S. San Francisco, CA), PTK-787/ZK-225846 (Novartis, Basel, Switzerland), SU-101 (Sugen, S. San Francisco, CA), SU-5416 (Sugen/ Pharmacia Upjohn, Bridgewater, NJ), and SU-6668 (Sugen). Other anti-angiogenic agents act to indirectly inhibit angiogenesis. Examples of indirect inhibitors of angiogenesis which may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, IM-862 (Cytran, Kirkland, WA), Interferon-alpha, IL-12 (Roche, Nutley, NJ), and Pentosan polysulfate (Georgetown University, Washington, DC).

[0558] In particular embodiments, the use of antibody and antibody compositions of the invention in combination with anti-angiogenic agents is contemplated for the

treatment, prevention, and/or amelioration of an autoimmune disease, such as for example, an autoimmune disease described herein.

[0559] In a particular embodiment, the use of antibody and antibody compositions of the invention in combination with anti-angiogenic agents is contemplated for the treatment, prevention, and/or amelioration of arthritis. In a more particular embodiment, the use of antibody and antibody compositions of the invention in combination with anti-angiogenic agents is contemplated for the treatment, prevention, and/or amelioration of rheumatoid arthritis.

[0560] In another embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an anticoagulant. Anticoagulants that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, heparin, warfarin, and aspirin. In a specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with heparin and/or warfarin. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with warfarin. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with warfarin and aspirin. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with heparin. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with heparin and aspirin.

[0561] In another embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an agent that suppresses the production of anticardiolipin antibodies. In specific embodiments, the polynucleotides of the invention are administered in combination with an agent that blocks and/or reduces the ability of anticardiolipin antibodies to bind phospholipid-binding plasma protein beta 2-glycoprotein I (b2GPI).

[0562] In certain embodiments, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with antiretroviral agents, nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, and/or protease inhibitors. Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors that may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention, include, but are not limited to, RETROVIR™ (zidovudine/AZT), VIDEX™ (didanosine/ddI), HIVID™

(zalcitabine/ddC), ZERIT™ (stavudine/d4T), EPIVIR™ (lamivudine/3TC), and COMBIVIR™ (zidovudine/lamivudine). Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors that may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention, include, but are not limited to, VIRAMUNE™ (nevirapine), RESCRIPTOR™ (delavirdine), and SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz). Protease inhibitors that may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention, include, but are not limited to, CRIVAN™ (indinavir), NORVIR™ (ritonavir), INVIRASE™ (saquinavir), and VIRACEPT™ (nelfinavir). In a specific embodiment, antiretroviral agents, nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, and/or protease inhibitors may be used in any combination with antibody and antibody compositions of the invention to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose AIDS and/or to treat, prevent, and/or diagnose HIV infection.

[0563] In other embodiments, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention may be administered in combination with anti-opportunistic infection agents. Anti-opportunistic agents that may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention, include, but are not limited to, TRIMETHOPRIM-SULFAMETHOXAZOLE™, DAPSONE™, PENTAMIDINE™, ATOVAQUONE™, ISONIAZID™, RIFAMPIN™, PYRAZINAMIDE™, ETHAMBUTOL™, RIFABUTIN™, CLARITHROMYCIN™, AZITHROMYCIN™, GANCICLOVIR™, FOSCARNET™, CIDOFOVIR™, FLUCONAZOLE™, ITRACONAZOLE™, KETOCONAZOLE™, ACYCLOVIR™, FAMCICOLVIR™, PYRIMETHAMINE™, LEUCOVORIN™, NEUPOGEN™ (filgrastim/G-CSF), and LEUKINE™ (sargramostim/GM-CSF). In a specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are used in any combination with TRIMETHOPRIM-SULFAMETHOXAZOLE™, DAPSONE™, PENTAMIDINE™, and/or ATOVAQUONE™ to prophylactically treat, prevent, and/or diagnose an opportunistic *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia infection. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are used in any combination with ISONIAZID™, RIFAMPIN™, PYRAZINAMIDE™, and/or ETHAMBUTOL™ to prophylactically treat, prevent, and/or diagnose an opportunistic *Mycobacterium avium* complex infection. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are

used in any combination with RIFABUTIN™, CLARITHROMYCIN™, and/or AZITHROMYCIN™ to prophylactically treat, prevent, and/or diagnose an opportunistic *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are used in any combination with GANCICLOVIR™, FOSCARNET™, and/or CIDOFOVIR™ to prophylactically treat, prevent, and/or diagnose an opportunistic cytomegalovirus infection. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are used in any combination with FLUCONAZOLE™, ITRACONAZOLE™, and/or KETOCONAZOLE™ to prophylactically treat, prevent, and/or diagnose an opportunistic fungal infection. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are used in any combination with ACYCLOVIR™ and/or FAMCICOLVIR™ to prophylactically treat, prevent, and/or diagnose an opportunistic herpes simplex virus type I and/or type II infection. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are used in any combination with PYRIMETHAMINE™ and/or LEUCOVORIN™ to prophylactically treat, prevent, and/or diagnose an opportunistic *Toxoplasma gondii* infection. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are used in any combination with LEUCOVORIN™ and/or NEUPOGEN™ to prophylactically treat, prevent, and/or diagnose an opportunistic bacterial infection.

[0564] In a further embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an antiviral agent. Antiviral agents that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, acyclovir, ribavirin, amantadine, and remantidine.

[0565] In a further embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an antibiotic agent. Antibiotic agents that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, amoxicillin, aminoglycosides, beta-lactam (glycopeptide), beta-lactamases, Clindamycin, chloramphenicol, cephalosporins, ciprofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, erythromycin, fluoroquinolones, macrolides, metronidazole, penicillins, quinolones, rifampin, streptomycin, sulfonamide, tetracyclines, trimethoprim, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, and vancomycin.

[0566] Conventional nonspecific immunosuppressive agents, that may be

administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, steroids, cyclosporine, cyclosporine analogs cyclophosphamide, cyclophosphamide IV, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, azathioprine, FK-506, 15-deoxyspergualin, and other immunosuppressive agents that act by suppressing the function of responding T cells.

[0567] In specific embodiments, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with immunosuppressants.

Immunosuppressants preparations that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, ORTHOCLONE™ (OKT3), SANDIMUNE™/NEORAL™/SANGDYA™ (cyclosporin), PROGRAF™ (tacrolimus), CELLCEPT™ (mycophenolate), Azathioprine, glucocorticosteroids, and RAPAMUNE™ (sirolimus). In a specific embodiment, immunosuppressants may be used to prevent rejection of organ or bone marrow transplantation.

[0568] In a preferred embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with steroid therapy. Steroids that may be administered in combination with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention, include, but are not limited to, oral corticosteroids, prednisone, and methylprednisolone (e.g., IV methylprednisolone). In a specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with prednisone. In a further specific embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with prednisone and an immunosuppressive agent. Immunosuppressive agents that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention and prednisone are those described herein, and include, but are not limited to, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, and cyclophosphamide IV. In another specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with methylprednisolone. In a further specific embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with methylprednisolone and an immunosuppressive agent. Immunosuppressive agents that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention and methylprednisolone are those described herein, and include, but are not limited to, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, and cyclophosphamide IV.

[0569] In a preferred embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an antimalarial. Antimalarials that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, and/or quinacrine.

[0570] In a preferred embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an NSAID.

[0571] In a nonexclusive embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with one, two, three, four, five, ten, or more of the following drugs: NRD-101 (Hoechst Marion Roussel), diclofenac (Dimethaid), oxaprozin potassium (Monsanto), mecaseprin (Chiron), T-614 (Toyama), pemetrexed disodium (Eli Lilly), atreleuton (Abbott), valdecoxib (Monsanto), eltenac (Byk Gulden), campath, AGM-1470 (Takeda), CDP-571 (Celltech Chiroscience), CM-101 (CarboMed), ML-3000 (Merckle), CB-2431 (KS Biomedix), CBF-BS2 (KS Biomedix), IL-1Ra gene therapy (Valentis), JTE-522 (Japan Tobacco), paclitaxel (Angiotech), DW-166HC (Dong Wha), darbufelone mesylate (Warner-Lambert), soluble TNF receptor 1 (synergen; Amgen), IPR-6001 (Institute for Pharmaceutical Research), trocade (Hoffman-La Roche), EF-5 (Scotia Pharmaceuticals), BIIL-284 (Boehringer Ingelheim), BIIF-1149 (Boehringer Ingelheim), LeukoVax (Inflammatics), MK-663 (Merck), ST-1482 (Sigma-Tau), and butixocort propionate (WarnerLambert).

[0572] In a preferred embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with one, two, three, four, five or more of the following drugs: methotrexate, sulfasalazine, sodium aurothiomalate, auranofin, cyclosporine, penicillamine, azathioprine, an antimalarial drug (e.g., as described herein), cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, gold, ENBREL™ (Etanercept), anti-TNF antibody, LJP 394 (La Jolla Pharmaceutical Company, San Diego, California) and prednisolone.

[0573] In a more preferred embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an antimalarial, methotrexate, anti-TNF antibody, ENBREL™ and/or suflasalazine. In one embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with methotrexate. In another embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with anti-TNF antibody. In another embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in

combination with methotrexate and anti-TNF antibody. In another embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with sufasalazine. In another specific embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with methotrexate, anti-TNF antibody, and sufasalazine. In another embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination ENBREL™. In another embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with ENBREL™ and methotrexate. In another embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with ENBREL™, methotrexate and sufasalazine. In another embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with ENBREL™, methotrexate and sufasalazine. In other embodiments, one or more antimalarials is combined with one of the above-recited combinations. In a specific embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an antimalarial (e.g., hydroxychloroquine), ENBREL™, methotrexate and sufasalazine. In another specific embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an antimalarial (e.g., hydroxychloroquine), sufasalazine, anti-TNF antibody, and methotrexate.

[0574] In an additional embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered alone or in combination with one or more intravenous immune globulin preparations. Intravenous immune globulin preparations that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but not limited to, GAMMAR™, IVEEGAM™, SANDOGLOBULIN™, GAMMAGARD S/D™, and GAMIMUNE™. In a specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with intravenous immune globulin preparations in transplantation therapy (e.g., bone marrow transplant).

[0575] CD40 ligand (CD40L), a soluble form of CD40L (e.g., AVREND™), biologically active fragments, variants, or derivatives of CD40L, anti-CD40L antibodies (e.g., agonistic or antagonistic antibodies), and/or anti-CD40 antibodies (e.g., agonistic or antagonistic antibodies).

[0576] In an additional embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered alone or in combination with an anti-inflammatory agent.

Anti-inflammatory agents that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, glucocorticoids and the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories, aminoarylcarboxylic acid derivatives, arylacetic acid derivatives, arylbutyric acid derivatives, arylcarboxylic acids, arylpropionic acid derivatives, pyrazoles, pyrazolones, salicylic acid derivatives, thiazinecarboxamides, e-acetamidocaproic acid, S-adenosylmethionine, 3-amino-4-hydroxybutyric acid, amixetrine, bendazac, benzydamine, bucolome, difenpiramide, ditazol, emorfazone, guaiazulene, nabumetone, nimesulide, orgotein, oxaceprol, paranyline, perisoxal, pifoxime, proquazone, proxazole, and tenidap.

[0577] In another embodiment, compositions of the invention are administered in combination with a chemotherapeutic agent. Chemotherapeutic agents that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, antibiotic derivatives (e.g., doxorubicin, bleomycin, daunorubicin, and dactinomycin); antiestrogens (e.g., tamoxifen); antimetabolites (e.g., fluorouracil, 5-FU, methotrexate, floxuridine, interferon alpha-2b, glutamic acid, plicamycin, mercaptopurine, and 6-thioguanine); cytotoxic agents (e.g., carmustine, BCNU, lomustine, CCNU, cytosine arabinoside, cyclophosphamide, estramustine, hydroxyurea, procarbazine, mitomycin, busulfan, cis-platin, and vincristine sulfate); hormones (e.g., medroxyprogesterone, estramustine phosphate sodium, ethinyl estradiol, estradiol, megestrol acetate, methyltestosterone, diethylstilbestrol diphosphate, chlorotrianisene, and testolactone); nitrogen mustard derivatives (e.g., mephallen, chorambucil, mechlorethamine (nitrogen mustard) and thiotepa); steroids and combinations (e.g., bethamethasone sodium phosphate); and others (e.g., dicarbazine, asparaginase, mitotane, vincristine sulfate, vinblastine sulfate, and etoposide).

[0578] In a specific embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone) or any combination of the components of CHOP. In another embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with Rituximab. In a further embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered with Rituxmab and CHOP, or Rituxmab and any combination of the components of CHOP.

[0579] In an additional embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of

the invention are administered in combination with cytokines. Cytokines that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, GM-CSF, G-CSF, IL2, IL3, IL4, IL5, IL6, IL7, IL10, IL12, IL13, IL15, anti-CD40, CD40L, IFN-alpha, IFN-beta, IFN-gamma, TNF-alpha, and TNF-beta. In preferred embodiments, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered with BLYS (e.g., amino acids 134-285 of SEQ ID NO:3228). In another embodiment, antibody and antibody compositions of the invention may be administered with any interleukin, including, but not limited to, IL-1alpha, IL-1beta, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, IL-11, IL-12, IL-13, IL-14, IL-15, IL-16, IL-17, IL-18, IL-19, IL-20, IL-21, and IL-22. In preferred embodiments, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with IL4 and IL10.

[0580] In one embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with one or more chemokines. In specific embodiments, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with an α (CxC) chemokine selected from the group consisting of gamma-interferon inducible protein-10 (γ IP-10), interleukin-8 (IL-8), platelet factor-4 (PF4), neutrophil activating protein (NAP-2), GRO- α , GRO- β , GRO- γ , neutrophil-activating peptide (ENA-78), granulocyte chemoattractant protein-2 (GCP-2), and stromal cell-derived factor-1 (SDF-1, or pre-B cell stimulatory factor (PBSF)); and/or a β (CC) chemokine selected from the group consisting of: RANTES (regulated on activation, normal T expressed and secreted), macrophage inflammatory protein-1 alpha (MIP-1 α), macrophage inflammatory protein-1 beta (MIP-1 β), monocyte chemotactic protein-1 (MCP-1), monocyte chemotactic protein-2 (MCP-2), monocyte chemotactic protein-3 (MCP-3), monocyte chemotactic protein-4 (MCP-4) macrophage inflammatory protein-1 gamma (MIP-1 γ), macrophage inflammatory protein-3 alpha (MIP-3 α), macrophage inflammatory protein-3 beta (MIP-3 β), macrophage inflammatory protein-4 (MIP-4/DC-CK-1/PARC), eotaxin, Exodus, and I-309; and/or the γ (C) chemokine, lymphotactin.

[0581] In another embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered with chemokine beta-8, chemokine beta-1, and/or macrophage inflammatory protein-4. In a preferred embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered with chemokine beta-8.

[0582] In an additional embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of

the invention are administered in combination with an IL-4 antagonist. IL-4 antagonists that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to: soluble IL-4 receptor polypeptides, multimeric forms of soluble IL-4 receptor polypeptides; anti-IL-4 receptor antibodies that bind the IL-4 receptor without transducing the biological signal elicited by IL-4, anti-IL-4 antibodies that block binding of IL-4 to one or more IL-4 receptors, and muteins of IL-4 that bind IL-4 receptors but do not transduce the biological signal elicited by IL-4. Preferably, the antibodies employed according to this method are monoclonal antibodies (including antibody fragments, such as, for example, those described herein).

[0583] The invention also encompasses combining the polynucleotides and/or polypeptides of the invention (and/or agonists or antagonists thereof) with other proposed or conventional hematopoietic therapies. Thus, for example, the polynucleotides and/or polypeptides of the invention (and/or agonists or antagonists thereof) can be combined with compounds that singly exhibit erythropoietic stimulatory effects, such as erythropoietin, testosterone, progenitor cell stimulators, insulin-like growth factor, prostaglandins, serotonin, cyclic AMP, prolactin, and triiodothyronine. Also encompassed are combinations of the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention with compounds generally used to treat aplastic anemia, such as, for example, methenolene, stanozolol, and nandrolone; to treat iron-deficiency anemia, such as, for example, iron preparations; to treat malignant anemia, such as, for example, vitamin B₁₂ and/or folic acid; and to treat hemolytic anemia, such as, for example, adrenocortical steroids, e.g., corticoids. See e.g., Resegotti et al., *Panminerva Medica*, 23:243-248 (1981); Kurtz, *FEBS Letters*, 14a:105-108 (1982); McGonigle et al., *Kidney Int.*, 25:437-444 (1984); and Pavlovic-Kantera, *Expt. Hematol.*, 8(supp. 8) 283-291 (1980), the contents of each of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

[0584] Compounds that enhance the effects of or synergize with erythropoietin are also useful as adjuvants herein, and include but are not limited to, adrenergic agonists, thyroid hormones, androgens, hepatic erythropoietic factors, erythrotropins, and erythrogenins. See for e.g., Dunn, "Current Concepts in Erythropoiesis", John Wiley and Sons (Chichester, England, 1983); Kalmani, *Kidney Int.*, 22:383-391 (1982); Shahidi, *New Eng. J. Med.*, 289:72-80 (1973); Urabe et al., *J. Exp. Med.*, 149:1314-1325 (1979); Billat et al., *Expt. Hematol.*, 10:133-140 (1982); Naughton et al., *Acta Haemat.*, 69:171-

179 (1983); Cognote et al. in abstract 364, Proceedings 7th Intl. Cong. of Endocrinology (Quebec City, Quebec, July 1-7, 1984); and Rothman et al., 1982, J. Surg. Oncol., 20:105-108 (1982). Methods for stimulating hematopoiesis comprise administering a hematopoietically effective amount (i.e., an amount which effects the formation of blood cells) of a pharmaceutical composition containing polynucleotides and/or polypeptides of the invention (and/or agonists or antagonists thereof) to a patient. The polynucleotides and/or polypeptides of the invention and/or agonists or antagonists thereof is administered to the patient by any suitable technique, including but not limited to, parenteral, sublingual, topical, intrapulmonary and intranasal, and those techniques further discussed herein. The pharmaceutical composition optionally contains one or more members of the group consisting of erythropoietin, testosterone, progenitor cell stimulators, insulin-like growth factor, prostaglandins, serotonin, cyclic AMP, prolactin, triiodothyronine, methenolone, stanozolol, and nandrolone, iron preparations, vitamin B₁₂, folic acid and/or adrenocortical steroids.

[0585] In an additional embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with hematopoietic growth factors. Hematopoietic growth factors that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, LEUKINE™ (SARGRAMOSTIM™) and NEUPOGEN™ (FILGRASTIM™).

[0586] In an additional embodiment, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention are administered in combination with fibroblast growth factors. Fibroblast growth factors that may be administered with the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention include, but are not limited to, FGF-1, FGF-2, FGF-3, FGF-4, FGF-5, FGF-6, FGF-7, FGF-8, FGF-9, FGF-10, FGF-11, FGF-12, FGF-13, FGF-14, and FGF-15.

[0587] Additionally, the antibody and antibody compositions of the invention may be administered alone or in combination with other therapeutic regimens, including but not limited to, radiation therapy. Such combinatorial therapy may be administered sequentially and/or concomitantly.

Kits

[0588] The invention also provides a pharmaceutical pack or kit comprising one or more containers filled with one or more of the ingredients of the pharmaceutical

compositions of the invention. Optionally associated with such container(s) can be a notice in the form prescribed by a governmental agency regulating the manufacture, use or sale of pharmaceuticals or biological products, which notice reflects approval by the agency of manufacture, use or sale for human administration.

[0589] The present invention provides kits that can be used in the above methods. In one embodiment, a kit comprises an antibody of the invention, preferably a purified antibody, in one or more containers. In an alternative embodiment, a kit comprises an antibody fragment that immunospecifically binds to BLYS. In a specific embodiment, the kits of the present invention contain a substantially isolated BLYS polypeptide as a control. Preferably, the kits of the present invention further comprise a control antibody which does not react with BLYS. In another specific embodiment, the kits of the present invention contain a means for detecting the binding of an antibody to BLYS (e.g., the antibody may be conjugated to a detectable substrate such as a fluorescent compound, an enzymatic substrate, a radioactive compound or a luminescent compound, or a second antibody which recognizes the first antibody may be conjugated to a detectable substrate). In specific embodiments, the kit may include a recombinantly produced or chemically synthesized BLYS. The BLYS provided in the kit may also be attached to a solid support. In a more specific embodiment the detecting means of the above-described kit includes a solid support to which BLYS is attached. Such a kit may also include a non-attached reporter-labeled anti-human antibody. In this embodiment, binding of the antibody to BLYS can be detected by binding of the said reporter-labeled antibody.

[0590] In an additional embodiment, the invention includes a diagnostic kit for use in screening serum containing antigens of the polypeptide of the invention. The diagnostic kit includes a substantially isolated antibody specifically immunoreactive with BLYS, and means for detecting the binding of BLYS to the antibody. In one embodiment, the antibody is attached to a solid support. In a specific embodiment, the antibody may be a monoclonal antibody. The detecting means of the kit may include a second, labeled monoclonal antibody. Alternatively, or in addition, the detecting means may include a labeled, competing antigen.

[0591] In one diagnostic configuration, test serum is reacted with a solid phase reagent having a surface-bound BLYS obtained by the methods of the present invention. After BLYS binds to a specific antibody, the unbound serum components are removed by

washing, reporter-labeled anti-human antibody is added, unbound anti-human antibody is removed by washing, and a reagent is reacted with reporter-labeled anti-human antibody to bind reporter to the reagent in proportion to the amount of bound anti-BLyS antibody on the solid support. Typically, the reporter is an enzyme which is detected by incubating the solid phase in the presence of a suitable fluorometric, luminescent or colorimetric substrate.

[0592] The solid surface reagent in the above assay is prepared by known techniques for attaching protein material to solid support material, such as polymeric beads, dip sticks, 96-well plate or filter material. These attachment methods generally include non-specific adsorption of the protein to the support or covalent attachment of the protein, typically through a free amine group, to a chemically reactive group on the solid support, such as an activated carboxyl, hydroxyl, or aldehyde group. Alternatively, streptavidin coated plates can be used in conjunction with biotinylated antigen(s).

[0593] Thus, the invention provides an assay system or kit for carrying out this diagnostic method. The kit generally includes a support with surface-bound recombinant BLyS, and a reporter-labeled anti-human antibody for detecting surface-bound anti-BLyS antibody.

[0594] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses a single chain Fv (scFv) having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 2128.

[0595] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses a single chain Fv (scFv) having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 46, 321 to 329, 1563 to 1595, and 1881 to 1908.

[0596] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses a single chain Fv (scFv) having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1563 to 1880.

[0597] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses a single chain Fv (scFv) having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1881 to 2128.

[0598] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses a single chain Fv (scFv) having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 1562.

[0599] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VH domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence

of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 2128, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof immunospecifically binds BLyS.

[0600] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VH domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 46, 321 to 329, 1563 to 1595, and 1881 to 1908.

[0601] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VH domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1881 to 2128, and in which said antibody or fragment thereof immunospecifically binds to the membrane-bound form of BLyS.

[0602] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VH domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1563 to 1880, and in which said antibody or fragment thereof immunospecifically binds to the soluble form of BLyS.

[0603] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VL domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 2128, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof immunospecifically binds BLyS.

[0604] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VL domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 46, 321 to 329, 1563 to 1595, and 1881 to 1908.

[0605] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VL domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1881 to 2128, and in which said antibody or fragment thereof immunospecifically binds to the membrane-bound form of BLyS.

[0606] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VL domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1563 to 1880, and in which said antibody or fragment thereof immunospecifically binds to the soluble form of BLyS.

[0607] In specific embodiments, the present invention encompasses an antibody or fragment thereof comprising a VL domain from an scFv having an amino acid sequence of one of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 2128, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof immunospecifically binds BLyS and which also comprises a VH domain from an scFv

CCITTの概要

沿革

CCITTは、国際電気通信連合（ITU）の四つの常設機関（事務総局、国際周波数登録委員会、CCIR、CCITT）の一つとして、ITUの中でも、世界の国際通信上の諸問題を真先に取上げ、その解決方法を見出して行く重要な機関である。日本名は、国際電信電話諮問委員会と称する。

CCITTの前身は、CCIF（国際電話諮問委員会）とCCIT（国際電信諮問委員会）である。CCIFは、1924年にヨーロッパに「国際長距離電話諮問委員会」が設置され、これが1925年のパリ電信会議のとき、正式に、「国際電話諮問委員会」として万国電信連合の公式機関となつたものである。CCITは、同じく1925年の会議のとき、CCIFと併立するものとして設置された。

そして、CCIFは、1956年の12月に第18回総会が開催されたのち、CCITは、同年同月に第8回総会が開催されたのち、併合されて現在のCCITTとなつた。このCCITTは、CCIFとCCITが解散した直後、第1回総会を開催し、第2回総会は、1960年にニューデリーで、第3回総会は、1964年、ジュネーブで、第4回総会は、1968年、アルゼンチンで開催された。

CCIFとCCITが合併したのには、有線電気通信の分野、とくに伝送路について電信回線と電話回線とを技術的に分ける意味がなくなつてきたこと、各国とも大体において、電信部門と電話部門は同一組織内にあること、CCIFの事務局とCCITの事務局の合併による能率増進等がおもな理由であつた。

CCITTは、上述のように、ヨーロッパ内の国々によつて、ヨーロッパ内の電信・電話の技術・運用・料金の基準を定め、あるいは統一をはかつてきたので、現在でも、その影響を受け、会合参加国は、ヨーロッパの国が多く、ヨーロッパで生起する問題の研究が多い。たとえば、1960年のCCITT勧告の中で、技術上配慮する距離は約2,500kmであつたが、これはヨーロッパ内領域を想定したものである。

しかしながら、1956年9月に敷設された大西洋横断電話ケーブルは、大陸間電話通信の自動化および半自動化への技術的可能性を与え、CCITTがこの問題を取り上げるに及び、CCITTの性格は漸次、汎世界的色彩を実質的に帯びるに至つた。この汎世界的性格は第2次世界大戦後目まぐるしく変つたアジア・アフリカ植民地の独立に伴つてITUの構成員の中にこれらの国が加わり、ITUの中に新しい意見が導入されたことにも起因して、技術面、政治面の双方から導入されてき

た。CCITTの汎世界化は、1960年の第2回総会がニューデリーで開催されたことにもあらわれている。この総会までは、CCIT、CCIFのいずれにしても、アメリカやアジアで総会が開催されたことがなく、CCITT委員長、ニューデリー総会の準備文書で、この点には注目すべきであるとのべている。

ITUは、全権委員会、主管庁会議を始めとして、七つの機関をもち、それぞれの機関の権限と任務は国際電気通信条約に明記されている。そこで条約を参照してみるならば、CCITTの任務は、つぎのとおりとなっている。

「国際電信電話諮問委員会（CCITT）は、電信および電話に関する技術、運用および料金の問題について研究し、および意見を表明することを任務とする。」（1965年モントルー条約第187号）

「各国際諮問委員会は、その任務の遂行に当たつて、新しい国または発展の途上にある国における地域および国際的の分野にわたる電気通信の創設、発達および改善に直接関連のある問題について研究し、および意見を作成するように妥当な注意を払わなければならない。」（同第188号）

「各国際諮問委員会は、また、関係国の要請に基づき、その国内電気通信の問題について研究し、かつ、勧告を行なうことができる。」（同第189号）

上記第187号と第188号にいわれる「意見」とは、フランス語の *avis* から訳したもので、英語では、「勧告（Recommendation）」となつてゐる。CCITTの表明する意見は、国際法的には強制力をもたないものであつて、この点が、条約、電信規則、電話規則等各国を拘束する力をもつてゐるものと異なる。もつとも意見とは称して、技術的の分野では、電信規則のごとき、各国政府が承認してその内容を実施する強制規則をもたないもので、実際にある機器の仕様を定める場合には、多くの国の意見が統一されたこの「意見」に従わなければ、円滑な国際通信を行なうことができない場合が多い。この意見（または勧告）は、国際通信を行なう場合各国が直面する問題について、具体的意見を表明するもので、たとえば、大陸間ケーブルで大陸間電話を半自動化しようとする場合、その信号方式や取り扱う通話の種類および料金、どのようにかを研究して意見を表明する。したがつて、CCITTの活動は、つねに時代の最先端を行くもので、CCITTの活動方向は、そのまゝ世界の国際通信の活動方向であるといえる。

この意見は、また、電信規則以下その他の規則のごとく、数年以上の間隔をもつて開催される主管庁会議とあるような大会議の決定をまたなくても表明することができ、また、その改正も容易であるので、現在のように進歩の早い国際通信世界では、関係国の意見を統一した国際的見解としては非常に便利である。